



Milestones

in Medical Education



Special points of interest

- AI Use and Dangers in Medical Education
- Graduation Keynote Speaker Announced
- LeapFrog Designation
- CME News
- Trainees, Alumni, & Faculty Publications & Scholarship
- 61st Annual PPGC - Register Now!!



From the Editor

Sweet Sixteen for the Milestones Newsletter

This January 2026 issue of **Milestones in Medical Education** marks the 16th anniversary of the newsletter. For the past 16 years, the newsletter highlighted significant achievements by the Department of Medical Education members (Staff, faculty, and trainees). The newsletter also highlighted institutional milestones such as national recognitions, accreditation, and steady growth in the Department's GME, CME, and UME.

As we reflect on the past 16 years, the Department of Medical Education has witnessed a steady growth in academic excellence at all levels and on the continuum of Medical Education:

- ◆ CME & Faculty Development: A continuous growth in CME offerings, Faculty Development multi-format sessions, and steady increase in MOC4 sponsorship by the Department's

MOC Portfolio Sponsor Program managed by Medical Education

- ◆ GME: In the past 16 years, there has been an increase in GME Programs from 8 (in 2010) to 18 (in 2025) and growing with an increase in NCH-employed trainees from 91 (in 2010) to 149 (In 2025)

This issue highlights important milestones and achievements that Medical Education trainees and faculty achieved in the past two months. This issue features the following Milestones in Medical Education:

- ◆ Medical Education celebrates the a great fellowship match for our Pediatric Residents
- ◆ Trainees continue to receive e-Recognition from peers, colleagues, staff, and patients for their pro-

fessionalism, humanism, and teamwork

- ◆ Preparations are underway for the graduation of the Class of 2025
- ◆ The Department's family celebrates the Holidays

As we bid farewell to 2025, we continue to be hopeful, filled with excitement, and highly dedicated to ensure that our academic mission continues to thrive, and our trainees, graduates, and Alumni continue to succeed in their future endeavors, careers, and professional journeys.

We raise our glasses for a New Year toast to all of you.. To you, to our patients & families, and... **"TO NEW BEGINNINGS!!!!"**

Rani S Gereige, MD, MPH, FAAP - DIO



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Milestones in Faculty Development

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Medical Education: Benefits, Dangers, & Ethical Guardrails (Part I)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to be part of our daily lives with AI embedded in over 350,000 apps and a > \$70 billion market annually. Three of 10 adults use AI worldwide.

AI is used in healthcare as (1) Clinical Care Tools; (2) Healthcare Systems Operations tools, and (3) Hybrid Tools supporting both business operation and clinical activities.

Historical Perspective

AI beginnings date back to **1950** as introduced by **Alan Turing** who published "*Computing Machinery & Intelligence*".

The first chatbot was **ELIZA** developed in **mid-1960** by **Joseph Weizenbaum of MIT**.

In **November 2022**, Open AI released **ChatGPT**. Since then many other vendors created their AI platforms.

The AI Prompt

In a survey of Medical students, the majority of students who report using AI were using it as a search engine (similar to the way they use google). The AI Prompt is one of the most important tools to use in approaching AI. This is similar to asking for a consultation: The more information is given the better the answer that will be given. A good prompt is **specific**, with **clear instructions**, provides **context**, is **unbiased**, and may need several rounds of **iterations**. Below are the elements of a good AI Prompt:

⇒ **Role**

⇒ **Audience**

⇒ **Topic**

⇒ **Guidelines**

⇒ **Output**

⇒ **Style**

⇒ **Validity**

AI Use in Medical Education

Medical Education has four domains:

1. Administration
2. Teaching Assessment
3. Clinical & Supervision
4. Research/Publications & Scholarship

In this Part I, we will discuss the first two domains.

1- Medical Education Administration

Uses: AI uses in Medical Education administration can be used as a tool for writing essays, personal statements, creating outlines & drafts, and can be used as an editor for grammar checks. AI can also be used by program leadership to review, score, and screen applications.

Dangers: AI output must be verified due to risk of hallucination and lack of accuracy. Another risk can be lack of personal touch and risk of breach of confidential personal information.

A Word About AI Hallucination:

AI models hallucinate because they are trained on a certain amount of data, and are prompted to respond to

queries with the most statistically likely answer (regardless of accuracy). AI models are trained to "please" the user by always providing some type of answer.

2- Teaching & Assessment

AI can have a role in Teaching & Assessment through the following benefits:

◇ **Personalized Learning** - Individualized feedback assessing the unique needs of students by analyzing performance data, robot-assisted surgery simulators, giving feedback and tutoring.

◇ AI can be used to **generate art/images** for teaching, creating MCQs, vignettes, and assessment tools, and assist with exam prep.

◇ AI can role play, act as a **simulated patient**, provide feedback, and help learners appraise the evidence. E.g. teaching and practicing Motivational Interviewing.

◇ AI can **address inequity and accessibility issues** in teaching (Tools for assisted speech interpretation, visual impairment assistance, and annotations) to provide an equitable learning environment.

◇ In terms of assessment, AI can **improve efficiency** in summarizing assessment data, faculty narratives looking for themes, informing CCCs, and facilitate objective interpretation of faculty evaluations. It also can provide a personalized performance assessment, identifying learners at risk. It also



Milestones in Faculty Development

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Medical Education: Benefits, Dangers, & Ethical Guardrails (Part I) (Cont'ed)

can score professional encounters and clinical skills exams.

◇ AI can also act as a tutor

through analysis of formative assessments. In addition, it can also provide a summative interpretation of written assessment and narrative feedback.

In the next issue, we will address the use of AI in Clinical & Supervision and Research/ Publications/ & Scholarship. (Part II)

Milestones in National Hospital Designation

Nicklaus Children's Earns 4th Consecutive Leap Frog Top Children's Hospital Designation

Nicklaus Children's Hospital was named a **Top Children's Hospital** by The **Leapfrog Group** for the fourth consecutive year. The Leapfrog Top Hospital Award is widely recognized as one of the most competitive awards American hospitals can receive.

The Top Hospital designation is bestowed by [The Leapfrog Group](#), a national nonprofit organization of employers and other purchasers known as the toughest standard-setters for healthcare quality and safety.

Nicklaus Children's is one of only 15 children's hospitals to be selected as a Top Children's

Hospital by Leapfrog! Over 2,400 hospitals were considered for the award, but only 156 Top Hospitals were selected, including:

- 15 Top Children's
- 52 Top General
- 16 Top Rural
- 73 Top Teaching

The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for

safer surgery and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors. The rigorous standards are defined in each year's [Top Hospital Methodology](#).

This recognition speaks to the amazing work of the entire Nicklaus Children's family. Every day, they put patients and families first by adhering to stringent patient safety and quality standards and best practices.

Congratulations to our physicians, nurses, and support staff for continuing to make safety our top priority and helping achieve this important recognition & milestone.

Milestones in Faculty, Trainees, and Alumni Scholarly Activities & Publications

NCH Trainees, Alumni, & Faculty Continue to Contribute to the Published Literature & National Presentations

Dr. Alexandra Byrne (PHM Faculty & NCH PHM Fellowship Alumnus) and her co-authors published her manuscript titled: **"Comparing Illness Severity Classifications for Children Hospitalized with Asthma"** in the December 2025 issue of *Hospital Pediatrics*. Congratulations!!!

Dr. Mildred Franco Linan, MD (PGY2) and her faculty mentor **Dr. Parul Jayakar** were notified that their abstract titled: **"Novel SETX p.Cys2038Arg Helicase-Domain Variant in a Family - Ataxia With Oculomotor Apraxia Type 2"** was accepted to be presented as a poster presentation in the 2026 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in Baltimore in March 10-14 2026. Congratulations!!!!

Dr. Enrique Konstat Korzenny, MD (Class of 2025 NCH Residency Alumnus) was notified that his abstract titled: **"The Mystery of the Floppy Infant: The Unusual Suspects"** was accepted to be presented as a poster presentation in the 2026 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in Baltimore in March 10-14 2026. Congratulations!!!!





Milestones in Graduation Preparations

The 2026 AAP Immediate Past-President to Deliver the NCH Class of 2025 Graduation Keynote Address



It is a great pleasure to confirm that **Dr. Susan J. Kressly, MD, FAAP** (Current AAP President) will deliver the Keynote Address for the **NCH Class of 2025 Graduation**.

Starting January 1 2026, Dr. Kressly will be the 2026 AAP Immediate Past-President.

Dr Kressly is board certified in Pediatrics and Clinical Informatics, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She received her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine and served her residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. Dr. Kressly began practicing in the Doylestown area in 1990 and has been an involved member of the medical community since then. Her independent pediatric practice has been a recognized medical home since 2011.

Dr. Kressly states: "My dominant advocacy gene compels me to speak up for children and pediatricians in order to advance child

health and the profession of pediatricians. I believe that all children deserve access to a well-coordinated, patient centered medical home neighborhood, and that all pediatricians, including medical and surgical specialists, deserve sufficient resources, payment, and support to meet the needs of the patients and families they serve.

My leadership journey has allowed me a broad range of experiences where I have actively sought a wide variety of perspectives. I am an empowering leader, providing inspiration and opportunity for others to collaborate".

Milestones in Fellowship Placement

Excellent Subspecialty Fellowships Match Results for NCH Pediatric Residents

On December 3rd 2025; 11 NCH Pediatric Residents received their Subspecialty Fellowships match results. Our trainees secured fellowship positions at excellent institutions. This reflects highly on the quality of our Pediatric Residency training. The rest are either going into primary care or staying on as chief residents. Below are the match results for residents pursuing subspecialty fellowships:

- ◆ **Abdullah Alghannami, MD** - Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology - Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
- ◆ **Pamela Castillo Rocha, MD** - Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology. St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

- ◆ **Natalie Flexman, DO** - Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology - University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) Medical School, Dallas, TX
- ◆ **Christian Martinez, MD** - Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology - Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Miami, FL
- ◆ **Rashmi Prasad, DO** - Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine - Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
- ◆ **Monica Ramirez Mendizábal, MD** - Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology - University of Miami/Jackson Health System, Miami, FL
- ◆ **Grecia Rivera Rodriguez, MD** - Fellowship in Pediatric Endocrinology - University of

Florida College of Medicine – Shands Hospital, Gainesville, FL

- ◆ **Emma Sanz, MD** - Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine - Nemours Children's Hospital, Orlando, FL
- ◆ **Samantha Shear, DO** - Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine - Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
- ◆ **Kristen Valdes, MD** - Fellowship in Pediatric Nephrology - Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA
- ◆ **Melanie Hew, MD** - Outgoing Chief Pediatric Resident - Fellowship on Pediatric Hospital Medicine - Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Miami, FL

Milestones in Teamwork & Professionalism

NCH Trainees Compliments and e-Recognitions

Trainees Receive PETALS Award Nominations



Maria Rodriguez, MD (PGY3)



Dana McCarney, MD (PGY1)



Luisa Vasquez Reyes, MD (PGY1)

Drs Maria Rodriguez, Dana McCarney, and Luisa Vasquez Reyes received PETALS award nominations. The nominations were received for the 3S team from the parents of a patient they all took care of. Congratulations!!!!



Milestones in CME News

Registration Opens for the 61st Annual 2026 PPGC

Registration and hotel reservations are now opened for the **61st Annual Pediatric Post Graduate Course (PPGC)**.

This year's course features practical themes, hot topics, and cutting edge science.

Join us on the beautiful coast of **Fort Lauderdale** for a weekend of learning and fun.

Some of the featured sessions and speakers include:

- ◆ AAP RedBook Editor (Pediatric Infectious Diseases) - Vaccine Updates and Travel Medicine
- ◆ AAP Section on Pediatric Radiology EC member
- ◆ Practice Management & AI Use in Practice
- ◆ Communicating with Families and Addressing Social Media Impact on Misinformation
- ◆ Latest updates from the NCH Ortho/Sports/ Spine, Heart, and Cancer Institutes
- ◆ Antibiotic Resistance
- ◆ Toxicology
- ◆ Genetic Testing
- ◆ Dermatology
- ◆ Neurofibromatosis update
- ◆ & ... many more....

Nicklaus Children's Where Your Child Matters Most™

61st Annual Pediatric Postgraduate Course
Founded by Donald H. Altman
Perspectives in Pediatrics

Practical updates and cutting-edge topics for pediatricians

save the date
March 20-22, 2026
friday, saturday, sunday
Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Marina
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

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- Come join us in sunny Florida on the beautiful beaches of Fort Lauderdale!
- Resort waterfront venue 2 miles from the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport!
- Enjoy up-to-date pediatric education designed with your practice in mind.
- EKG Screenings of the young athlete
- Cutting edge updates from our Heart, Neuroscience, and Orthopedics, Sports Medicine, and Spine Institutes
- Practice Management - Artificial Intelligence & social media use in practice
- Toxicology and street drugs
- Antibiotic resistance
- How best to communicate with families about misinformation and disinformation?
- Updates in infectious diseases
- Updates on genetic testing for complex diseases
- Cases I learned from

... and many more practical relevant topics

Approved by the ASP as a post-SB activity for the American Board of Pediatrics Maintenance of Certification (MOC) - 10 points

Accreditation Statement: Nicklaus Children's Hospital is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Designation Statement: Nicklaus Children's Hospital designates this live activity for a maximum of 10.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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Happy Holidays from The Department of Medical Education

On **December 17th 2026**; members of the Department of Medical Education; including trainees, staff, coordinator, and program leadership gathered for a fun-filled evening at Ball & Chain in Little Havana.

Wishing you all a **Happy and Safe Holiday Season and a Blessed New Year!!!!**



January

Abdullah Alghannami	2
Alejandra Cotto	4
Emma Sanz	7
Mildred Franco Linan	10
Martin Varea Romo	12
Iram Khan	13
Jose Morales Hernandez	13
Marien Govea	16
Michelina Pando	17
Gabriela Solorzano	19
Isis Felipe Baroni	23
Amsha Reddy	23
Andrea Perez Moscoso	26
Laura Geroy Fleites	28
Ivan Morales Brito	28
Claudia Moraga	28

Medical Education Birthdays



February

Andrea Montano Ballesteros	8
Jonathan Creech	11
Laura Calderon Suarez	11
Kristen Anderson	11
Ivette Troitino	19
Victoria Quintero-Riestra	23
Geoffrey Miller	24
Marina Dias	27
Gayathri Srinivasan	27
Maria Diaz Munoz	28



Alumni Network
MIAMI CHILDREN'S • NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S
SINCE 1962



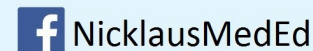
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To Teach is To Touch a Life Forever