

WINTER | 2021 | 2022

# MILESTONES

## CHAIR'S CORNER

I warmly welcome you to this edition of Milestones during a time of the year when we are reminded to be grateful for the many gifts in our lives. One attribute of our Department of Pediatrics for which I am constantly grateful, is the diversity of passion and skill you and your team members express each day. We are truly a small department with big impact, and a key driver for this is the broad breadth of targets for your unique expressions of caring for children. Through service to community, commitment to scholarship, dedication to unique areas of clinical expertise and sincere enthusiasm for collaboration, our work reaches across the state, penetrating niches large and small to leverage opportunities to improve the lives of infants and children. This edition of Milestones features wonderful examples of each of these unique ways we express our caring for children in their communities. I hope you enjoy learning more about them. So, please join me in celebrating and appreciating the diverse impacts of our department and accept my heartfelt gratitude for your engagement in and support for KU Wichita Pediatrics.

Sincerely,



## With Guard and KU Pediatrics, Ormond doctors Kansas

By Brian Whepley

With his role at KU School of Medicine-Wichita, it's fitting that when **Andrew Ormond, M.D.**, transitioned from active duty to the Kansas Air National Guard, he joined the 184th Wing — the Fighting Jayhawks.

Ormond, a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, is a newborn hospitalist at Wesley Medical Center, sees patients at the KU Ambulatory Pediatrics Clinic and trains medical students and residents. His last active-duty role was at McConnell Air Force Base — also home to the 184th — where he was head of pediatrics.



Since joining KU School of Medicine-Wichita two years ago, Ormond has been asked to put on his major's uniform more than is usually expected for the National Guard. Last year, he was called in to oversee liaison efforts with state health officials when another officer had COVID-19. This year he spent a month leading a Guard team that supported mass vaccination sites, a stint that included briefing the nation's top Guard general. He also squeezed in training as a flight doctor, and now certifies pilots and crew are physically fit to fly.

The father of two young children, Ormond notes he couldn't serve without the backing of his wife, Ashley, a clinical psychologist in training. "We're a team. We support each other." [Continued on Page 2.](#)

# NEW FACULTY: GENETICS COUNSELOR, ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER JOIN DEPARTMENT

**Jake Ginter**, a genetics counselor, and **Jocelyn Zauche**, an advanced nurse practitioner, joined KU Wichita Pediatrics this summer, bringing much-needed specialties to the department and Wichita families.

Ginter joins fellow faculty member Shobana Kubendran as the only two genetic counselors serving patients in central and western Kansas.



“How great is it to say I’ve helped double the number of counselors for this area,” said the Tulsa native. After graduating from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences school, Ginter wanted to go where he could make the most impact.

With advances in genetic testing that can help determine a range of possibilities, from development delays to significant medical conditions, Ginter said his job is to help parents interpret test results and provide support and resources for the families. He spends his spare time composing music, enjoying his cat and gardening.

At age 4, Zauche decided she wanted to be a nurse who cared for children after hearing her father, a Garden City, Kansas, pediatrician, speak so highly of his nursing staff. Currently halfway through her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Wichita State, Zauche specializes in pediatric hematology and oncology care.



“I love taking care of my families. We get to be part of some challenges, but we also get to be part of some successes,” said Zauche who considers it a blessing to be part of a child’s medical journey.

Zauche — who loves gardening, running with her 7-year-old golden Labrador and hosting her “big brood of nieces and nephews” — had been with Wesley Medical Center since 2018.

## Ormond doctors Kansas

Continued.

Ormond sees his military and medical school roles as complementing each other by letting him educate others and improve his own skills — an extension of the military’s “continuous improvement” philosophy.

“I’m always having to learn more as a physician. There’s a lot of intrinsic lessons learned through training and teaching and supervising others, which I had a lot of opportunities to do in the military,” he said, recalling how he enjoyed working with young military medical providers who were as eager as medical students are.

During the pandemic and other crises, the Guard is the first called to serve. “That fits along with KU because our mission, as we like to say, is to doctor Kansas, educating the next generation of physicians so we can expand and improve care around the state.”



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MELHORN STILL PROTECTS VULNERABLE CHILDREN

During her 1980s residency with KUSM-Wichita Pediatrics, **Katherine Melhorn, M.D.**, experienced a watershed moment: How could she and her fellow physicians do more to help in suspected cases of child abuse?

After completing a fellowship in Los Angeles County Hospital learning how to do that, Dr. Melhorn joined the KUSM-Wichita Pediatrics faculty in 1986 and immediately started helping current and future physicians learn to become better at discerning abuse and neglect.

Thirty-five years later — after becoming the first board-certified child abuse pediatrician in Kansas, helping create the Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County and taking on several administrative roles in the pediatrics department — Dr. Melhorn is now a part-time faculty member. She is also one of three Wichita specialty physicians who share on-call duties with Wichita's two hospital systems for suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

Dr. Melhorn has earned several awards recognizing her contributions, including the Volunteer Leadership Award in 2018 from the National Children's Alliance.

For years, she and her golden retriever, Penny, a certified therapy dog, have also brightened the hospital stays of children at Wesley Medical Center.



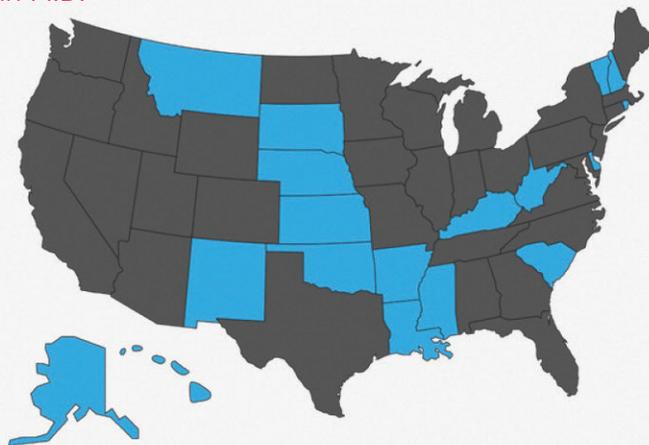
**Katherine Melhorn, M.D.**, accepted the Volunteer Leadership Award in 2018 from the National Children's Alliance.

## Clinical trials supporting rural pediatrics

by Gretchen Homan M.D.

When you think of cutting-edge research advancements for pediatrics, do you picture rural Kansas as the driving force? Probably not, but that is changing.

KU Wichita Pediatrics is part of a research network designed to support capacity building in areas of the country not previously funded by many National Institute of Health grants. The Institutional Development Award states are a group of 23 states, 18 of which (including Kansas) participate in ECHO ISPCTN (see map) and are developing clinical trials to study and support rural pediatrics. These studies focus on the five key pediatric outcomes determined by ECHO (Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes) to have high public health impact. They include: pre, peri and postnatal outcomes; upper and lower airway conditions; obesity; neurodevelopment and positive health. Recent studies include investigations for vitamin D in asthma, neonatal opioid withdrawal and healthy weight interventions for rural children, just to name a few.



The Sunflower Pediatric Clinical Trials Research Extension or SPeCTRE was created in 2016 as a collaboration between the University of Kansas Medical Center and Children's Mercy Hospital to form the Kansas arm of the IDEa states Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (ISPCTN). With KU Wichita Pediatrics serving as the connection to rural pediatrics in Kansas, we are working to bring cutting-edge ideas to pediatric patients. Clinicians without previous research experience can bring innovations to their patients through this network.

We are proud to be a part of this opportunity benefiting the children of Kansas and excited about the projects coming in the future — stay tuned! If you are interested in learning more or participating in a new clinical trial, please contact **Kristina Foster** at [kfoster6@kumc.edu](mailto:kfoster6@kumc.edu) or **931-588-6393**.

3243 E. Murdock, Suite 402  
Wichita, KS 67208



**For Milestones  
online**  
[wichita.kumc.  
edu/pediatrics/  
newsletter](http://wichita.kumc.edu/pediatrics/newsletter)

## THE WICHITA OPEN Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics



Roy Turner, right, Wichita Open tournament director, presented the largest charitable donation in the 32-year history of the event - \$100,000 - to Garold Minns, M.D., KU School of Medicine-Wichita dean, and Brian Pate, M.D., KU School of Medicine-Wichita Department of Pediatrics chair, on Monday, Nov. 8, 2021, at The Belmont. The Wichita Open, benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics, took place June 16-20, 2021, at Crestview Country Club. The 2022 dates are June 15-19. [View photos from the 2021 event.](#)

## Something for YOU, something for THEM

**Reminder:** Purchase KU Wichita Pediatrics swag and you can help keep the KU Kids Closet full. The closet provides new clean clothes to patients visiting our clinics and hospital when they need a change.

Visit [kubookstore.com/ku-students/ku-med/wichita-pediatrics](http://kubookstore.com/ku-students/ku-med/wichita-pediatrics) to select items from hats to license plate holders, and garden flags to Guthrie, the inaugural bear supporting the B.E.A.R.S. 4Kids program. All proceeds from your purchases will support the KU Kids Closet.

