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# The Neurotransmitter

UT Health Austin Pediatric Neurosciences at Dell Children's

Promoting Discovery and Innovation in the Pediatric Neurosciences



Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to **UT Health Austin Pediatric Neurosciences at Dell Children's**. In this issue of *The Neurotransmitter*, we share our new chief of neurosurgery Dr. Rizk's forward-looking vision for our program, introduce our new faculty members, and highlight recent and upcoming conferences, including this summer's third annual IMPRES epilepsy surgery conference.

As our nationally ranked program continues expanding its impact in Central Texas and beyond, we remain dedicated to offering outstanding educational opportunities, promoting research and scholarly activity, and delivering exceptional multidisciplinary clinical care for all children with neurological disorders.

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## **A CONVERSATION WITH ELIAS RIZK: CHIEF OF PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY**



**Elias Rizk, MD, PhD, MSc**, is an esteemed pediatric neurosurgeon who last year became the co-chief of UT Health Austin Pediatric Neurosciences at Dell Children's, chief of pediatric neurosurgery, and professor of neurosurgery at The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. The following interview provides a glimpse of Rizk's extraordinary program vision, thoughtfulness, and humility.

### **How did you become interested in pediatric neurosurgery?**

My interest in pediatric neurosurgery began with a keen interest in embryology and neuroscience, interests that grew during my graduate and postgraduate training. Pediatric neurosurgery is a special field because we have the opportunity to care for children who demonstrate such resilience and potential for recovery. Importantly, we can make a huge difference in their lives by preventing a disability and improving their quality of life. Another exciting aspect of the field is the rapidly advancing technologies that we use every day to improve patient care. Pediatric neurosurgery is truly a calling. We work with children and their families, helping them through some of the most difficult times in their lives.

## **What are some of the challenges you have faced as a pediatric neurosurgeon?**

Pediatric neurosurgery is extremely rewarding, but it also presents its own challenges. On the emotional side, taking care of kids and their families during life-changing events can be very difficult. It requires the ability to walk a tight rope between empathy, objectivity, and detachment. On the technical side, there is also the challenge of working with the smaller anatomical structures in kids. Other challenges include keeping up with the latest technology and providing equitable access to care.



*Rizk performing a craniotomy*

## **UT Health Austin Pediatric Neurosciences at Dell Children's is a fairly new program with an emerging academic reputation. What led you here?**

After more than a decade at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, where I was the chief of pediatric neurosurgery, I was ready for the next challenge in an exciting setting. I was attracted to UT Austin and Dell Children's because, from my first encounter, I could sense the momentum and enthusiasm here. Everything about these institutions feels like they are on the move. Everyone from administration on down is committed and working together to create something very special. There is also Austin's spirit of innovation combined with the powerful partnership between Dell Medical School and the Ascension system. Since my arrival in January of 2025, it has been an experience unlike any other. Everyone is eager about their field and dedicated to providing care of the highest caliber. Here, I have the ability to work as part of a team that gives children their best opportunity not only to survive but to thrive.



*Rizk with pediatric neurology assistant chief Sara Pavitt, MD,  
at the annual pediatric neurosciences Super (Neuro) Bowl*

**With the focus on innovation at Dell Medical School, what excites you most about the pediatric neurosciences program?**

We have an amazing team of highly committed people. I am also excited about the opportunity to break new ground in pediatric neurosurgery with technology. At Dell Children's, we have virtually every innovative technology, including a recently added intraoperative MRI. Along with Brainlab's in-built navigation technology, this enables real-time modifications during surgery, promoting safety and enabling more precise surgical treatments for children with complex conditions such as tumors or epilepsy. In the future, I am eager to apply our translational work across several areas, including craniofacial defects, brain masses, imaging, and hydrocephalus based on in-house translational work done at Dell Children's.



*Rizk with colleagues at the 2025 IMPRES epilepsy research conference*

**You have a special interest in mentoring future neurosurgeons. How have your own mentors shaped the way you mentor and advise others today?**

Mentoring is one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my career. I am privileged to work with brilliant minds. My experience is influenced by people such as Jerry Oakes, Mark Dias, Kimberly Harbaugh, Benny Iskandar, and others. They showed me how to take a mentee's words to heart and foster them. Their support and mentorship demonstrated how to foster an open environment that helps mentees find growth opportunities. Like my own mentors, I mentor by creating access, providing feedback, and practicing a work-life balance. This approach allows me to inspire students not only to perform well in their field but also to lead with empathy, just as I did with them.



*Rizk participating in games at the annual pediatric neurosciences retreat*

### **Where do you see this program in the next five to ten years?**

In the coming years, I would like to see our pediatric neurosciences program become a nationwide destination for complex pediatric neurological care. Our team will work extremely hard to ensure that not a single kid from Central Texas needs to leave the area to receive world-class care. We are also committed to enhancing our fellowship and residency opportunities and extending our research program in areas such as genetic disorders and regenerative medicine. While our goal is to become a renowned academic medical center, we also aim to be a superb hospital for our extended community and a place where children come first. I can merely say I am honored to be a part of it.

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### **FEATURED ARTICLES**



*MacKenzie Howard, PhD*



*Audrey Brumback, MD, PhD*

Work by pediatric neurosciences research power couple **MacKenzie Howard, PhD**, an assistant professor of neurology and neuroscience at Dell Medical School, and **Audrey Brumback, MD, PhD**, an assistant professor of neurology, focuses on understanding neurodevelopmental disorders at the cellular and molecular levels. By defining how different brain circuits process information and how that information processing is altered in neurodevelopmental disorders, their team hopes to uncover new ways of shifting brain cell activity from the disordered processing back toward the normal state.

In two recently published articles, the team defined differences between two separate subcircuits within the connections between the prefrontal cortex and the mediodorsal thalamus, a processing network involved in controlling higher functions such as cognition, learning, and social behavior. Different properties of neurons in the thalamic subregions shift the timing of cell responses, changing the type of information these two different circuits extract (**Lyuboslavsky et al. 2024**). They next studied a genetically engineered mouse model of fragile X syndrome. In these animals, brain cells in one of the subcircuits are altered while those in the other subcircuit are not (**Ordemann et al. 2025**). This vital work is improving our understanding of how and where such disorders take root and may facilitate the development of future therapies.

Further work by the Brumback-Howard team has explored the roots of neurodevelopmental disorders in brain areas that are often overlooked. The cerebellum has long been known for its role in coordinating and learning movements, but its role in learning and memory, cognition, social behavior, and language is less well known. The team studied a genetically engineered mouse model of Dravet syndrome, which typically causes severe epilepsy, disabling movement disorders, developmental and intellectual regression, and autism. They discovered that while the seizures associated with Dravet syndrome likely arise in the cortex and hippocampus, many of its other manifestations may arise from altered neural activity in the cerebellum (**Guillén et al. 2025**). These findings may shift and guide the priorities for therapy development to focus on the cerebellum and other brain structures that are rarely considered in neurodevelopmental disorders.

Lyuboslavsky P, Ordemann GJ, Kizimenko A, Brumback AC. Two contrasting mediodorsal thalamic circuits target the mouse medial prefrontal cortex. *J Neurophysiol.* 2024;131(5):876-890. doi:10.1152/jn.00456.2023

Ordemann GJ, Lyuboslavsky P, Kizimenko A, Brumback AC. Fmr1 knockout disrupts multiple intrinsic properties via reduced HCN channel activity in mediodorsal thalamocortical neurons. *Exp Physiol.* Published online September 4, 2025. doi:10.1113/EP092894

Guillén FI, Geist MA, Cheng SY, Harris AM, Treviño ME, Nishiyama H, Brumback AC, Howard MA. A novel mouse model for developmental and epileptic encephalopathy by Purkinje cell-specific deletion of Scn1b. *J Neurosci.* 2025;45(50):e2184242025. Published 2025 Dec 10. doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2184-24.2025

## **A SECOND OPINION**

This 14-year-old girl was evaluated because of a possible unwitnessed seizure onemonth earlier. Her family noticed an unsteady gait after her morning shower. She was intermittently confused and periodically exhibited upward eye deviation. They also noticed a large knot on the back of her head. The patient did not remember showering or talking with her family but remembered getting dressed. In the local emergency department she complained of headache and vomited. Computed tomography revealed a nondisplaced right occipital fracture and an adjacent scalp hematoma. Her electrocardiogram was normal. She was sent home following a telemedicine consultation with a neurologist.

The family had witnessed daily “zoning out” episodes even before the emergency department visit. During these episodes she was able to talk but seemed somehow less engaged. She also exhibited infrequent quick body jerks and daily eye blinking movements. The eye blinks were diagnosed seven years earlier as a tic disorder.

Her general examination was notable for hyperextensible elbow and wrist joints. She was awake, alert, and able to answer questions appropriately. She exhibited intermittent eyelid fluttering and at times looked at the light at the onset of the eyelid fluttering. Otherwise, her neurological examination was normal.

Given the occipital fracture and the large scalp hematoma, a concussion could easily explain the headaches, vomiting, and confusion following the episode a month earlier. But did this injury result from an accidental fall, syncope, or a seizure? The zoning out episodes could be seizures despite her ability to talk during these periods, the body jerks could be myoclonus, and the long-standing eye blinks and eyelid fluttering could represent eyelid myoclonus instead of motor tics. What evaluations are needed to identify the correct diagnosis?

### **Initial Differential Diagnosis**

1. Concussion-related confusion, headache, and vomiting
2. Unwitnessed syncopal episode
3. Unwitnessed seizure with postictal state
4. Preexisting tic disorder versus epilepsy with eyelid myoclonia

*See additional discussion below.*

## **PEDIATRIC NEUROSCIENCES WELCOMES NEW COLLEAGUES**

UT Health Austin Pediatric Neurosciences at Dell Children’s has grown dramatically since it was founded in 2019. As of this year, the multidisciplinary program features 21 child neurologists, 21 advanced practice providers, four pediatric neurosurgeons, three pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation specialists, nine pediatric neuropsychologists, and a pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist. We recently welcomed new colleagues to the program.



**Dhruve S. Jeevan, MD, MA**, is a board-certified pediatric neurosurgeon who joins the pediatric neurosciences program and the Dell Medical School Department of Neurosurgery. He completed a master's degree in neurosciences at Cambridge University, UK, and graduated with a medical degree from Oxford University School of Medicine with merit. He completed postgraduate training at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxfordshire; a neurosurgery residency at New York Medical College, where he was chief resident; a fellowship in complex spine at New York Medical College; and a fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery at the Hospital for Sick Children at the University of Toronto. He was previously an assistant professor of neurosurgery at Baylor Scott & White in Temple, TX.

Jeevan's clinical interests include congenital craniovertebral junction anomalies, cervical spine trauma, functional neurosurgery, and deep brain stimulation, particularly for treating movement disorders. He also practices adult neurosurgery for patients with congenital neurosurgical diseases and other conditions.



**Melanie Somekh, PhD, MA**, is an assistant professor of neurology and a neuropsychologist with expertise in early childhood neurodevelopment and Spanish/English bilingual neuropsychological assessment. She is skilled in adapting assessment procedures to ensure culturally responsive evaluations.

Somekh received her Master of Arts and PhD in clinical psychology from Fordham University in New York, then completed predoctoral training in neuropsychology at Weill Cornell Medicine, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She completed her psychology internship with emphasis in neuropsychology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and her postdoctoral fellowship in clinical pediatric neuropsychology at Dell Medical School. She is widely published and is a member of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, International Neuropsychological Society, Hispanic Neuropsychological Society, and American Psychological Association. In 2022, she received an American Epilepsy Society (AES) Young Investigator Award.



**Lori Xu, MD**, is an assistant professor of neurology and a pediatric neurologist who specializes in pediatric stroke. She received a Bachelor of Arts in biology from Washington University in St. Louis and earned her medical degree from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She completed her pediatric neurology training at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and a fellowship in pediatric stroke at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Her clinical and research interests include high-risk stroke patients such as children with genetic conditions that involve the heart. Xu is a member of the International Pediatric Stroke Organization, American Academy of Neurology, American Heart Association, Child Neurology Society, and American Medical Association.

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## **ELECTED & SELECTED**

### **Hardy Spearheads CNS Special Interest Group**



Assistant neurology professor **Duriel Hardy, MD**, led the creation of a Child Neurology Society special interest group focusing on the transition from pediatric care to adult care. Hardy has a long-standing interest in transition of care for adolescents with neurological disorders and recently published a paper in the *Journal of Child Neurology* on **transition needs among youth with neuroimmune disorders**. CNS members who are interested in joining the new SIG can contact Hardy at [duriel.hardy@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:duriel.hardy@austin.utexas.edu).

### **12 Faculty Members Named *Austin Monthly's* Top Doctors of 2026**

In the most recent list of *Austin Monthly's Top Doctors*, members of our pediatric neurosciences program once again dominated the selections related to pediatric neurological care. Our team accounted for 12 of the 16 pediatric neuroscience physicians, including seven of nine child neurologists, both pediatric neurosurgeons, two of four pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation specialists, and the only pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist.



*Kristen Arredondo, MD  
Pediatric epilepsy*



*Glendaliz Bosques, MD  
Pediatric rehabilitation*



*Dave Clarke, MD  
Pediatric epilepsy*



*Jane Edmond, MD  
Pediatric  
neuro-ophthalmology*



*Daniel Freedman, DO  
Epilepsy and functional  
disorders*



*Duriel Hardy, MD  
Pediatric  
neuroimmunology*



*M. Omar Iqbal, MD  
Pediatric neurosurgery*



*Louisa Keith, MD  
General neurology,  
NICU and cardiac  
follow-up*



*Dhruve Jeevan, MD,  
MA  
Pediatric neurosurgery*



*Faheem Mahomed, MD  
Pediatric rehabilitation*



*Sara Pavitt, MD  
Headache in children*



*E. Steve Roach, MD  
Genetic disorders,  
stroke*

### **Nurses Present on Stroke Protocol at National Conference**

Pediatric neurosciences quality coordinator **Breanna Bunting, BSN, RN, CNRN**, and clinical lead **Julia Garcia, BSN, RN, CNRN**, presented on establishing a multidisciplinary pediatric stroke protocol at the annual American Association of Neuroscience Nurses Advances in Stroke Care Conference in Phoenix, AZ, in July.

### **Three Medical Assistants Accepted to Medical School**



*Emma Astad*



*Elizabeth Denney*



*Claire Marrone*

In the past two years, three medical assistants from our program have been accepted to medical school. **Emma Astad** is an M1 at UNT Health Fort Worth's Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, **Elizabeth Denney** is an M1 at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and **Claire Marrone** will be attending McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston starting this year. Congratulations to these three women on their incredible accomplishments!

## Four Faculty Members Named Castle Connolly 2026 Top Doctors



*Dave Clarke, MD*



*Jane Edmond, MD*



*Louisa Keith, MD*



*E. Steve Roach, MD*

We are proud to announce that four of our pediatric neuroscience providers were named Castle Connolly Top Doctors: **Dave Clarke, MD**; **Jane Edmond, MD**; **Louisa Keith, MD**; and **E. Steve Roach, MD**. **Castle Connolly Top Doctors** represent the top 7% of all US practicing physicians and are peer nominated through surveys sent out to tens of thousands of doctors. Those results are rigorously vetted by a research team of Castle Connolly physicians based on several factors.

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## IN THE NEWS

### Pavitt Featured as Guest on WebMD Podcast



**Sara Pavitt, MD**, chief of our pediatric headache program, co-director of the pediatric neurosciences program, and assistant professor of neurology, was the guest on *WebMD Health Discovered Podcast* on November 26. Pavitt was interviewed by Neha Pathak, MD, WebMD's Chief Physician Editor for Health and Lifestyle Medicine, on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of migraine in children, when to seek medical attention, and how to manage chronic and acute migraine. Listen to the episode, "[Headaches or Something More? Understanding Childhood Migraine.](#)"

## Ferrante Featured in *Neurology Today*



Assistant neurology professor **Leah Ferrante, MD**, who specializes in fetal and neonatal neurology, was a featured expert commentator in a **November 2025 *Neurology Today* article** entitled “Skin-to-Skin Care May Impact White Matter Development in Preterm Infants.”

## UT Medical Center Receives \$100 Million Donation

A \$100 million gift from Tench and Simone Coxe is helping to launch the new UT academic medical center, expected to open in 2030. The donation will help fund faculty recruitment and technological investments, expand diagnostic capabilities, accelerate research, and develop therapies to improve the lives of our patients. The generous investment has been reported in more than two dozen news outlets, including Bloomberg, Fortune, and Becker’s Hospital Review. [Read more about the unrestricted gift.](#)

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## CEREBRAL PALSY CLINIC HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



(L to R) Faheem Mahomed, MD, rehabilitation program administrator Regina Sorkin, BSN, RN, Jackie James, OT, ATP, Catherine Harrison, PT, DPT, Allan Lara, MD, and Glendaliz Bosques, MD

The **Dell Children's Comprehensive Cerebral Palsy Clinic** hosted its second annual Pediatric Cerebral Palsy Symposium on January 10 at Dell Children's. The conference educated community therapists on the treatment and management of spasticity, dystonia, and movement disorders across the continuum of care.

Presentations included "Early Childhood Cerebral Palsy" by Dell Medical School assistant professors of neurology **Leah Ferrante, MD**, and **Allan Lara, MD**; "Pediatric Mobility and Seating: Best Practices for Early Intervention and Advocacy" by Dell Children's Pediatric Rehabilitation Center therapy program manager **Catherine Harrison, PT, DPT**, and Jackie James, OT, ATP; and "Lower Extremity Spasticity Management: Serial Casting, Toxin, and Orthopedic Referral" by assistant professor of neurology **Faheem Mahomed, MD**.

"We are excited that we impacted a greater number of therapists with our educational offerings this year," said **Glendaliz Bosques, MD**, chief of the pediatric rehabilitation medicine program. "We value collaboration with community therapists who are dedicated to excellent patient care and hope to continue offering these opportunities."

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## **MAHER PRESENTS TIMOTHY M. GEORGE, MD, MEMORIAL LECTURE**



*Cormac Maher, MD (middle) with Dell Medical School neurosurgery faculty members (L to R) Juan Ortega-Barnett, MD, Nicholas Barbaro, MD, Kevin Kumar, MD, PhD, and Elias Rizk, MD, PhD, MSc*

The fourth annual Timothy M. George, MD, Memorial Lecture, held at Dell Children's on November 8, was presented by Cormac O. Maher, MD, chief of neurosurgery at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and Botha Chan Endowed Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Stanford University School of Medicine. Maher's keynote lecture on current controversies in Chiari malformation was part of the Timothy M. George, MD, Memorial Lecture and Research Symposium: The Economics of Pediatric Health Care.

Maher opened the symposium with reflections on Timothy George, a professor of neurosurgery at Dell Medical School and a pediatric neurosurgeon at Dell Children's who died unexpectedly in 2019. "I interacted with him extensively in neurosurgery spheres," Maher said. "He always talked to you on your level. When I was coming into the field, he would introduce you to everybody and get you involved in whatever research was going on. He was really an amazing person, and his patients loved him."

Previous memorial lecture guest speakers have included [Susan Durham, MD, MS](#), professor of clinical neurological surgery at Keck School of Medicine of USC and chief of neurosurgery at Children's Hospital Los Angeles; [John \(Jay\) Wellons III, MD, MSPH](#), professor of neurological surgery and pediatrics and chief of pediatric neurological surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; and [Bermans Iskandar, MD](#), professor and chair of pediatric neurosurgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.



*Maher receiving the Timothy George lectureship with Kumar*

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## PROGRAM CO-SPONSORS FOURTH ANNUAL NEUROFIBROMATOSIS FAMILY DAY



*Panelists (L to R) Amy Durand, MD, Virginia Harrod, MD, PhD, Chelsey Ortman, MD, Moise Levy, MD, Neha Puar, MD, Rachel Bridges, PhD, and Emily Greenspahn, PhD*

Patients and family members from throughout Central Texas gathered at Dell Children's for the fourth annual Neurofibromatosis Family Day Meeting on November 8. Co-sponsored by the Dell Children's Neurofibromatosis Center of Excellence, UT Health Austin Pediatric Neurosciences at Dell Children's, and the Children's Tumor Foundation, this free meeting educated patient families on community resources and the latest developments in clinical care and research through bilingual presentations and Q&A sessions.

Presentations spanned topics from neuropsychological monitoring by neurology assistant professors **Emily Greenspahn, PhD**, and **Rachel Bridges, PhD**, to the NF1 disease course by neurology assistant professor **Chelsey Ortman, MD**. Children could participate in the educational sessions with their families or in science-themed activity workshops.



The **Dell Children's Neurofibromatosis Clinic** is the only Central Texas member of the **NF Clinic Network** of the Children's Tumor Foundation. It provides accelerated access for patients with neurofibromatosis as well as comprehensive, multidisciplinary care in a family-centered environment. With subspecialty expertise, the clinic is committed to providing the best care at each stage of the disease and offers transitional care into the adult NF program.

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## **A SECOND OPINION: EPILOGUE**

The diagnosis of epilepsy was confirmed with an electroencephalogram, which revealed frequent short-duration 3-5 Hz spike and polyspike discharges, most without a clinical correlate. A single brief absence seizure occurred during hyperventilation. A prominent photoparoxysmal response was noted at flash frequencies between 12-24 Hz but resolved with the application of blue lenses. She exhibited numerous examples of eyelid myoclonus during eye closure, each associated with a brief generalized spike burst.

Epilepsy with eyelid myoclonia, when accompanied by eye-closure-induced seizures, photosensitivity, and generalized epileptiform discharges, was once known as Jeavons syndrome, named for Peter Jeavons, the British physician who described this constellation of findings. A subgroup of patients compulsively induce seizures by gazing at the sun or a bright light and creating a flickering light effect by waving their fingers before their eyes (this is sometimes called sunflower syndrome after the heliotropism of sunflowers). Most patients have absence seizures, but, as with our patient, these seizures can be so brief that the individual can continue to interact. About a quarter of them also have generalized tonic-clonic seizures. Seizure onset is typically about seven years of age, but the diagnosis is commonly delayed several years, and the seizures typically persist into adulthood. Variants of several genes have been associated with epilepsy with eyelid myoclonia.

### **Final Diagnosis**

1. Unwitnessed head injury, probably related to epilepsy
2. Epilepsy with eyelid myoclonia

### **Additional Reading**

1. Zavar I, Knight EP. Epilepsy with eyelid myoclonia (Jeavons syndrome). *Pediatr Neurol.* 2021;121:75-80.
2. Smith KM, Youssef PE, Wirrell EC, et al. Jeavons syndrome: clinical features and response to treatment. *Pediatr Neurol.* 2018;86:46-51.
3. Nilo A, Crespel A, Genton P, Macorig G, Gigli GL, Gelisse P. Epilepsy with eyelid myoclonias (Jeavons syndrome): an electro-clinical study of 40 patients from childhood to adulthood. *Seizure.* 2021;87:30-38.

## FUN FACTS FROM OUR SUPER (NEURO) BOWL

Each year as part of our Pediatric Neuroscience Wellness Program, we host a medically themed trivia contest at the kickoff of Super Bowl weekend. Below is one of the questions from our contest. See how you do.

The title of this 1959 Adolph Gottlieb painting in Houston's Museum of Fine Arts suggests a medical condition.



Photograph courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

© 2026 Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.

What condition is suggested?

- A. Retinal macular degeneration
- B. Schizophrenia
- C. Ischemic stroke
- D. Optic neuritis

**Answer**

## Seventh Annual Practical Pediatric Neuroscience Symposium

The seventh annual Practical Pediatric Neuroscience Symposium will be held this May at Dell Children's with virtual access. The target audience is general pediatric practitioners who care for children with a wide range of neurological disorders. This free event will feature interactive presentations by pediatric neuroscience faculty on a broad range of topics, from the causes and treatment of autism to CNS infections related to vaccine-preventable diseases. Each presentation will provide specific techniques and evidence-based recommendations for diagnosis and management. Details on registration and CME forthcoming.

## IMPRES Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Conference

The Dell Children's Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Center is hosting its third Innovative Minds: Pediatric Research in Epilepsy Surgery (IMPRES) Conference in collaboration with the Lurie Children's Epilepsy Center from **Friday, June 26, to Sunday, June 28, 2026**, at Hotel Van Zandt in downtown Austin. Visit the [event website](#) or email [dcmcepilepsy@ascension.org](mailto:dcmcepilepsy@ascension.org) for additional information.



JUNE 26-28, 2026

**IMPRES** Conference  
Innovative Minds:  
Pediatric Research in  
Epilepsy Surgery

**HOTEL VAN ZANDT**  
DOWNTOWN AUSTIN

New topics, speakers, and interactive neurosurgery breakout session

*The Neurotransmitter*, 2026, Issue 1

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UT Health Austin Pediatric Neurosciences at Dell Children's is a clinical partnership between Dell Children's Medical Center and UT Health Austin, the clinical practice of Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin.

For additional program information:

<https://youtu.be/V8n6RWukiaY?si=VOTIBdHDuSE5ELIZ>  
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