

19th Annual Pediatric Neurology Symposium

April 10-11, 2026

Central Station Hotel • Memphis, Tenn.

Sponsored by the Neuroscience Institute
at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital



Le Bonheur
Methodist Healthcare Family Children's Hospital

19th Annual

Pediatric Neurology Symposium

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Overview

This program aims to enhance the competence and performance of health care providers by improving their understanding of nervous system disorders, emerging therapies and novel imaging modalities. It is designed to shorten diagnosis times, improve diagnostic accuracy and optimize treatment plans, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes. The program will update primary care practitioners, neurologists and other health care professionals on the latest advancements in diagnosing and managing nervous system disorders in both adults and children.

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

- Review recent pediatric epilepsy clinical trial designs and discuss implications for clinical practice
- Identify and explain common reasons for ICU neurology consultations and their clinical relevance
- Describe challenges and opportunities in transitioning pediatric epilepsy patients to adult care
- Discuss new and emerging therapies in movement disorders
- Review diagnostic approaches and treatment options for neuromuscular genetic conditions
- Summarize new therapeutic approaches in general child neurology
- Discuss new and emerging therapies in pediatric epilepsy management
- Identify updated genetic testing guidelines in pediatric neurology, explain relevant state policies and analyze approaches for interpreting and communicating uncertain results
- Describe the indications and clinical use of MRI-guided laser interstitial thermal therapy (LiTT) in pediatric neurology
- Demonstrate how neuropsychological evaluation contributes to pediatric neurology care
- Review indications and protocols for immediate use/rescue therapy in epilepsy
- Evaluate new medical treatments relevant to pediatric neurology
- Analyze outcomes in pediatric epilepsy and evaluate roles of medical and surgical therapies
- Analyze and appraise diagnostic information in pediatric neurology cases and recommend treatment strategies
- Discuss diagnosis and management strategies for adolescent migraine with attention to unique challenges
- Explain guardianship processes and strategies to prepare families for decision-making
- Review common pediatric sleep disorders and outline diagnostic and treatment approaches

The symposium program is concerned primarily with improving medical knowledge and improving patient care. The program is designed to fill gaps in medical knowledge and practice, including employing evidence-based medicine. Practice also includes working with interdisciplinary team members when necessary, in addition to better utilization of system resources.

Course Director

James Wheless, BScPharm, MD, FAAP, FACP, FAAN, FAES

Professor, Chief and Le Bonheur Chair in Pediatric Neurology,
University of Tennessee (UT) Health Science Center
Director, Le Bonheur Comprehensive Epilepsy Program,
Co-director, Neuroscience Institute,
Tom Horton and Donna Wiener Endowed Chair in Neurosciences,
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Faculty

Donald Bearden, PhD, ABPP-CN

Associate Professor, UT Health Science Center
Chief of Pediatric Psychology and Behavioral
Health, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Emily Bonkowski, ScM, CGC

Genetic Counselor, Le Bonheur Children's
Hospital

Paola Castri, MD

Assistant Professor, Pediatric Neurology,
UT Health Science Center
Pediatric Neurology, Le Bonheur Neuroscience
Institute, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Dennis Dlugos, MD, MSCE

Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics,
Perelman School of Medicine at the University
of Pennsylvania
Pediatric Neurology, Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia

Ankita Ghosh, MD

Assistant Professor, UT Health Science Center
Director, Comprehensive Headache Clinic,
Pediatric Neurology, Le Bonheur Neuroscience
Institute, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Daniel Guillen, MD

Assistant Professor, Pediatric Neurology,
UT Health Science Center
Co-director MDA/Neuromuscular Clinic,
Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute,
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Christen Holder, PhD

Professor, Pediatric Neurology, UT Health
Science Center
Clinical Director, Neuropsychology, Le Bonheur
Neuroscience Institute, Le Bonheur Children's
Hospital

Robin Jack, MD

Associate Professor, Pediatric Neurology,
UT Health Science Center
Pediatric Neurology, Le Bonheur
Neuroscience Institute, Le Bonheur
Children's Hospital

Nicole Kubinec, PhD

Assistant Professor, UT Health Science Center
Pediatric Neuropsychology, Le Bonheur
Neuroscience Institute, Le Bonheur Children's
Hospital

Ashmitha Raja, MD

Assistant Professor, UT Health Science Center
Pediatric Neurology, Le Bonheur Neuroscience
Institute, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Namrata Shah, MD, FRCPC

Professor, Pediatric Neurology,
UT Health Science Center
Pediatric Neurology, Le Bonheur
Neuroscience Institute,
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Samir Shah, MD, MBA

Professor, UT Health Science Center
Division Chief, Critical Care, Le Bonheur
Children's Hospital

Nir Shimony, MD

Assistant Professor, Neurosurgery,
UT Health Science Center
Pediatric Neurosurgery, Le Bonheur
Neuroscience Institute,
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
Semmes Murphey Clinic

Erick Viorritto, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor, UT Health Science Center
Director, Sleep Lab, Pediatric Neurology,
Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute, Le Bonheur
Children's Hospital

Sarah Weatherspoon, MD

Associate Professor, Pediatric Neurology,
UT Health Science Center
Co-director, Tuberous Sclerosis Center
of Excellence, Associate Chief, Pediatric
Neurology, Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute,
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Faculty Disclosure

As a provider accredited by The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare must ensure balance, independence, objectivity and scientific rigor in its educational activities. Course director, planning committee, faculty and all others who are in a position to control the content of this educational activity are required to disclose all relationships with ineligible companies. Safeguards against commercial bias have been put in place. Faculty will also disclose any off-label and/or investigational use of pharmaceuticals or instruments discussed in their presentation. Disclosure of these financial relationships or absence of relevant financial relationships will be disclosed to the audience.

Accreditation

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is approved as a provider of Nursing Continuing Professional Development by The Mississippi Nurses Foundation, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Credit

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare designates this live activity for a maximum of 10.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™.

Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare approves this program for up to 9.58 Nursing Contact Hours.

Registration Fees

The registration fee is **\$245.00** for physicians and non-health care attendees. The fee is **\$180.00** for nurse practitioners and physician assistants. The fee is **\$95.00** for fellows, residents, nurses and other health care providers. This includes the reception, two breakfasts, two lunches and breaks. Guests of registered attendees may attend the Friday night dinner for an additional **\$40.00**. Full refund will be given for cancellation notice in writing before **April 1, 2026**. Cancellations after that date will be assessed a fee. No refunds will be given after **April 3, 2026**.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare reserves the right to alter, reschedule or cancel this program should circumstances so dictate. For further information, call (901) 516-8933 or visit www.methodistmd.org.

Friday, April 10, 2026

- 7:45 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:15 a.m. **Welcome, Opening Remarks and Disclosures**
James W. Wheless, BScPharm, MD, FAAP, FACP, FAAN, FAES, FCNS
- 8:30 a.m. ***Kayden R. Vinson Distinguished Scholar Award & Lecture: Recent Pediatric Epilepsy Clinical Trial Designs - Implications for Clinical Practice***
Dennis Dlugos, MD, MSCE
- 9:20 a.m. **Top Four Reasons for an ICU Neurology Consult**
Namrata Shah, MD, and Samir Shah, MD
- 10 a.m. **Question and Answer Session**
- 10:15 a.m. **Break | Visit Exhibitors**
- 10:40 a.m. **Coming of Age with Epilepsy: Challenges and Opportunities in Transition to Adulthood**
Donald Bearden, PhD
- 11:20 a.m. **Movement Disorders: Common and Uncommon**
Ashmitha Raja, MD
- Noon **Lunch | Visit Exhibitors**

Genetics Mini-Symposium

- 12:50 p.m. **Neuromuscular Genetics: Diagnosis and Treatment**
Daniel Guillen, MD
 - 1:15 p.m. **General Child Neurology: New Therapies**
Paola Castri, MD
 - 1:45 p.m. **Epilepsy: New Therapies**
James W. Wheless, BScPharm, MD, FAAP, FACP, FAAN, FAES, FCNS
 - 2:15 p.m. **Genetic Testing in Pediatric Neurology: Navigating New Guidelines, State Policies and Uncertain Results**
Emily Bonkowski, ScM, CGC
 - 2:50 p.m. **Break | Visit Exhibitors**
 - 3:15 p.m. **Some Like it Hot! (Where and How Do I Use MRI Guided LiTT)**
Nir Shimony, MD
 - 3:45 p.m. **Neuropsychology: How We Help**
Christen Holder, PhD
 - 4:15 p.m. **Immediate Use Therapy (Also Known as Rescue Therapy)**
James W. Wheless, BScPharm, MD, FAAP, FACP, FAAN, FAES, FCNS
 - 4:45 p.m. **New Medical Treatments**
Sarah Weatherspoon, MD
 - 5:45 p.m. **Reception**
 - 6:15 p.m. **Dinner**
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Saturday, April 11, 2026

- 7:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast**
- 8:15 a.m. Rethinking Outcomes in Pediatric Epilepsy: Natural History, Medical Therapy, Surgical Therapy**
Dennis Dlugos, MD, MSCE
- 9 a.m. Pediatric Neurology Case Vignettes: How Would You Handle This?**
Robin Jack, MD
- 9:50 a.m. Question and Answer Session**
- 10 a.m. Break | Visit Exhibitors**
- 10:25 a.m. Special Considerations for Adolescents Living with Migraine Headaches**
Ankita Ghosh, MD
- 11 a.m. Guardianship 101: How to Prepare Families**
Nicole Kubinec, PhD
- 11:30 a.m. Common Sleep Disorders: Diagnosis and Treatment**
Erick Viorritto, MD
- 12:10 p.m. Closing Comments**
James W. Wheless, BScPharm, MD, FAAP, FACP, FAAN, FAES, FCNS
- 12:15 p.m. Box Lunch**

Scholarship Opportunities

A limited number of scholarships for pediatric neurology residents are available through unrestricted educational grants. Scholarships cover the cost of tuition and one night of lodging. Candidates interested in attending should send a letter from your program director along with the registration form to the address below:

Attn: James Wheless, MD
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
49. N. Dunlap, 3rd Floor, Pediatric Neurology, Memphis, TN 38103

Conference Materials

Conference materials will be available electronically following the conference on **May 1, 2026**.

Conference Site & Hotel Accommodations

Central Station Hotel

545 S. Main St. • Memphis, TN 38103 • (901) 524-5247

Valet Parking Available

Visit lebonheur.org/neuro-room-block to book your room.

All hotel reservations must be made before **March 13, 2026**.

Area Attractions

Please refer to the website www.memphistravel.com for a list of Memphis attractions and details.

To register for the conference online, visit
lebonheur.org/conference-registration

To learn more about the **Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute**, visit
lebonheur.org/neuroscience



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Program Registration Form

Name: _____

Degree: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Name of Hospital or Clinic: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Specialty: _____ NPI#: _____

Email: _____

- ☐ Registrant and guest will attend reception and entertainment on Friday.
(Number attending _____) (An additional **\$40.00** for each person
that is not a registered conference attendee.)

Method of Payment

☐ Check for \$ _____ enclosed (payable to Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare)

☐ Credit Card: Charge \$ _____ to my:

☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CSC #: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____
(Please print)

Signature: _____
(Cardholder signature)

Statement Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

**Online registration available at lebonheur.org/conference-registration or
mail your completed registration form and fees to:**

Continuing Medical Education • Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare
251 S. Claybrook, Ste. 512 • Memphis, TN 38104
Phone: (901) 516-8933



848 Adams Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38103