

Pediatric Epilepsy Support Group presents:

9th Biennial  
Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Reunion

# From Trials to Triumphs



*"Patrick had epilepsy surgery as an 8-year-old boy. Now, more than 25 years later, at the 2023 Reunion with his infant son Issac and wife Lizzie, he brings smiles and inspiration to the attendees."*

**Friday July 25 - Saturday July 26, 2025**

Embassy Suites Cleveland Rockside, Independence, OH

[www.ccfcmc.org/pedsepilepsyreunion25](http://www.ccfcmc.org/pedsepilepsyreunion25)

## A Message from the Reunion Directors

Dear Friends-

It is with immense joy and gratitude that we welcome you to the **9th Biennial Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Reunion** in 2025! This gathering is a testament to the journeys we have shared, the milestones we have celebrated, and the unwavering strength of each and every one of you.

For many, epilepsy surgery was a pivotal decision—one filled with equal parts of hope & uncertainty, and yet a tsunami of courage. This event is a homecoming, a space where shared experiences bring comfort, where connections deepen, and where new friendships are forged.



Over the years, we have witnessed remarkable transformations—children who once struggled with seizures now thriving in school and in their adult lives, families who faced uncertainty now embracing new possibilities, and a community that continues to grow stronger together. Your stories of hope, determination, and advocacy inspire us all and reinforce why we gather here.

This weekend is an opportunity to reflect on our shared journey, learn from each other, and empower one another. With insightful discussions from leading experts, engaging activities for children and young adults, and heartfelt conversations with families who truly understand, we hope this reunion leaves you with renewed strength, inspiration, and a deepened sense of belonging.

To all the families—whether this is your first reunion or you have been with us since the beginning—**welcome back!** You are the heart of this event, and we are honored to share this special time with you.

Join us to celebrate the triumphs of resilience, perseverance, and the human spirit.



## 2023 Reunion Highlights

Although this cherished event has become a tradition, the COVID-19 pandemic forced an unexpected five-year hiatus. It wasn't until 2023 that families could once again reunite, making the long-awaited gathering even more meaningful.

In July 2023, 48 families from across the United States gathered in Cleveland for the 8th reunion. 151 participants shared their life experiences after epilepsy surgery. Some young patients were only months into their recovery after surgery, while others had navigated years of life post-surgery. They arrived with optimism for the future while reflecting on the challenges they had overcome. Their collective experiences created a powerful learning opportunity for all in attendance. As with every reunion, physicians, specialists and other subject matter experts led engaging discussions and hosted a rehabilitation exposition for the families. Meanwhile, the young attendees enjoyed age-appropriate, supervised activities designed just for them.





# From Trials to Triumphs

## AGENDA

### Friday, July 25, 2025

- 4:00 - 6:00 pm Registration
- 5:30 pm Appetizers
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Welcome *Dr. Lachhwani*
- 7:05 pm Remarks *Dr. Gupta*  
Unsung Hero
- 7:15 pm Remarks *Dr. Bingaman*
- 8:00 pm Adjourn
- 8:30 - 9:30 pm Hemispherectomy Group and Focal Resections Group Meeting for Parents



### Saturday, July 26, 2025

- 7:30 am Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 am Kid's Activities Drop-Off
- 8:30 am - 12 pm Concurrent Programs

Parents Program	
8:30 am	Opening Remarks <i>Dr. Lachhwani</i>
8:40 am	Risk Factors for Seizure Recurrence <i>Dr. Parfyonov</i>
8:50 am	New Frontiers in Epilepsy Surgery <i>Dr. Bingaman</i>
9:00 am	Executive Function and Quality of Life in Young Patients after Surgery <i>Dr. Arenivas</i>
9:10 am	Panel Discussion/Q&A with Faculty from Pediatric Epilepsy, Pediatric Surgery and Behavioral Health
10:00 am	Break
10:30 am	Sleep and Brain Health <i>Dr. Shah</i>
10:40 am	Nutrition and Brain Health <i>Danielle Beaudoin</i>
10:50 am	Sports, Physical Fitness and Brain Health <i>Joseph and Lina Mina</i>
11:00 am	Panel Discussion/Q&A Faculty from Sleep, Nutrition and Sports/Physical Fitness

All Programs	
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch with Balloons by Blake!
1:30 - 3:30 pm	Rehab and Community Support Expo, Face Painting, Art Therapy
3:30 pm	Adjourn



9th Biennial Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Reunion

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7:30 am Breakfast Buffet  
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*(see previous page for Parents Program)*



	Kids Program
8:30 am 9:00 am	Music and Sing-Alongs with Anurati
9:00 am 10:00 am	The Magic of Michael Mage
10:00 am 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am 12:00 pm	Jungle Terry and Friends
	Young Adults Program
9:00 am 10:00 am	Embracing Adulthood after Epilepsy Surgery <i>Marie Atwood, Chad Emery</i>
	Siblings Program
10:30 am 11:30 am	Sibling Group Meeting <i>Dr. Pestana Knight</i>
	All Programs
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch with Balloons by Blake!
1:30 - 3:30 pm	Rehab and Community Support Expo, Face Painting, Art Therapy
3:30 pm	Adjourn



# Co-Directors

**Elia Pestana Knight, MD**  
Pediatric Epilepsy

**William Bingaman, MD**  
Vice Chairman,  
Neurological Institute

**Deepak Lachhwani, MD**  
Pediatric Epilepsy

# Cleveland Clinic Faculty and Panelists

**Ana Arenivas, PhD, MPH**  
Pediatric Neuropsychology

**Marie Atwood**  
PESG Patient Ambassador

**Danielle Beaudoin MS, RD, CSP, LD, CNSC**  
Pediatric Nutrition Services

**Sarah Brown, LPCC, ATR**  
Group Psychotherapist, Art Therapist,  
Akron General

**Chad Emery**  
PESG Patient Ambassador

**Tatiana Falcone, MD**  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

**Ajay Gupta, MD**  
Pediatric Epilepsy

**Anurati Jain, LPMT, MT-BC, NICU-MT**  
Music Therapist

**Patricia Klaas, PhD**  
Pediatric Neuropsychology

**Prakash Kotagal, MD**  
Pediatric Epilepsy

**Joseph Mina**  
PESG Parent Ambassador

**Lina Mina**  
PESG Parent Ambassador

**Erin Murdock, MD**  
Pediatric, Physical Medicine  
and Rehabilitation

**Ahsan Moosa Naduvil Valappil, MD**  
Pediatric Epilepsy

**Maksim Parfyonov, MD**  
Pediatric Epilepsy

**Richard Rammo, MD**  
Neurosurgeon, Epilepsy Center

**Vaishal Shah, MD, MBBS, MPH**  
Sleep Center

**Demitre Serletis, MD, PhD**  
Neurosurgeon, Epilepsy Center

**Tammy Shella, PhD, ATR-BC**  
Arts and Medicine

# Additional Planning Committee

**Demeshia Cunningham, BSN, RN**

**Morgan Fisher, PA-C**

**Kimberly Hoffner,BSN, RN, CPN**

**Paula Klima, BSN, RN**

**Ann Warbel, APRN, CNP**



# Contact Us

For more information about the reunion:

- 1. Visit [www.ccfcm.org/pedsepilepsyreunion25](http://www.ccfcm.org/pedsepilepsyreunion25)
- 2. Email [CUNNIND@ccf.org](mailto:CUNNIND@ccf.org)
- 3. Call **216-444-8012**

## Hotel Accommodations

### Embassy Suites by Hilton Cleveland Rockside

5800 Rockside Woods Blvd.  
Independence, OH 44131  
**216.986.9900**

A limited block of rooms has been reserved at the Embassy Suites Cleveland-Rockside. To make your reservations, contact the hotel and identify yourself as being with the **Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Reunion** meeting for a special rate of **\$123** (plus tax). Contact Embassy Suites directly at 216.986.9900 to make your hotel reservation by July 3, to receive the special rate(s). Room rate cannot be guaranteed after July 3.



## Registration and Cancellation

### Pre-registration is required.

Preregistrations are accepted online until 5:00 PM ET July 23, 2025. After July 23, please contact Liz Eaton at **216.385.9076** or [eatonl3@ccf.org](mailto:eatonl3@ccf.org). In case of cancellation, a full refund will be made if canceled by July 18, 2025. After July 18, 2025, a 10% cancellation fee will be deducted from your refund. Written notification of your cancellation is required to process your refund. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER JUNE 25, 2025.**

### Fees includes:

**Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and afternoon refreshment break.**

Adults (13 and older)	<b>\$30</b>
Children (12 and under)	<b>\$20</b>

### Be Here in Spirit: Donate a Leaf for the Pediatric Epilepsy “Family Tree”.

Many families have been inspired to contribute to this cause, especially if they are unable to come in person. This year, we are creating a **“Family Tree”**, to help you to represent our pediatric epilepsy surgery family. You could donate leaves with your name(s) and grow this tree, which we will display at the upcoming reunion. All proceeds will directly support the Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Event.

For more information  
on how to make a leaf  
donation please visit:

