

# iCAN in Action: iCAN Transforms Pediatric Care: Creativity, Collaboration, and Change

Sabina Schmidt Goldstein-Becerra



**Get involved today and Join the iCAN Parent Council!**

*“iCAN, the International Children’s Advisory Network, is the premier global pediatric platform empowering the patient voice in healthcare, driven by youth for youth. As a worldwide consortium of 40 KIDS’ (Kids Impacting Disease through Science) advisory groups spanning four continents, including one virtual chapter, iCAN’s dedicated youth member groups work in unison around the world to provide a voice for children and families in medicine, research, science, and innovation, to foster greater global understanding about the importance of the pediatric patient and caregiver voice in healthcare, clinical trials, and research. diagnoses.”*

iCAN, the International Children’s Advisory Network, is the premier global pediatric platform empowering the patient voice in healthcare, driven by youth for youth. As a worldwide consortium of 40 KIDS’ (Kids Impacting Disease through Science) advisory groups spanning four continents, including one virtual chapter, iCAN’s dedicated youth member groups work in unison around the world to provide a voice for children and families in medicine, research, science, and innovation, to foster greater global understanding about the importance of the pediatric patient and caregiver voice in healthcare, clinical trials, and research. On average, our youth are ages 8-18 years old, most of whom are living with chronic, rare, and complicated diagnoses, though a few of our youth have no medical diagnoses or medical conditions. iCAN values and understands that all patients, even the youngest, often have ideas that can help improve their healthcare experiences. To foster diversity, all children from anywhere may freely join iCAN. iCAN also supports young adults and the voice of parents, many of whom have young people who cannot share their voices. We continue to be a collaboration between the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Advances in Therapeutics and Technology (SOATT), Georgia Institute of Technology (the GT Pediatric Innovation Network), local AAP Chapters, children’s hospitals, local academia, and other non-profits.

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*Documenting Patient Stories: A Conversation with Jesse (Jumo Health) on the Intersection of Art and Health to Transform Pediatric Care Spaces*

our mission, various programs, and initiatives. Join us to ensure that every child's voice is heard and that their unique experiences are taken into account to improve healthcare outcomes for all pediatric patients.

[Click Here to Watch](#) the full feature of December's *Ask the Experts*,

This month's Ask the Experts (ATE) session featured an inspiring discussion with Jesse Jankewicz, Director of Video Services at Jumo Health, who shared his insights on using storytelling and creativity to drive change in healthcare. Jesse took us through his journey, from his early fascination with animation and storytelling, inspired by his father, to his impactful career in healthcare communication. He offered a glimpse into his role at Jumo Health, where he creates compelling patient stories on camera, combining his technical expertise in video production, motion graphics, and video editing with a deep understanding of patient needs. His work is centered around bringing the patient's voice to light, making healthcare topics more accessible and engaging through visual storytelling.

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Jesse emphasized the transformative power of storytelling, sharing how his work has raised awareness about vital health issues and touched lives through meaningful and memorable patient stories. One of his favorite projects was collaborating with one of our iCAN kids, Muminah, who shared her personal story. Jesse animated her experience, transforming her words into a beautiful and powerful visual narrative. Muminah's story was profoundly moving for Jesse, and he described it as one of his favorite projects to date because it perfectly captured the emotional and educational potential of animation in healthcare. This project highlighted the incredible impact that personal storytelling can have when paired with creative animation. Jesse also shared how his connection with Muminah and the meaningfulness of her story continues to resonate with him.

He recounted other key moments from his career, demonstrating how creativity catalyzes empathy and understanding in healthcare. Our iCAN kids loved learning about his creative process, including how he brainstorms innovative ideas, stays current with design trends, and balances his work's technical and artistic aspects. During the dynamic Q&A session, Jesse addressed thoughtful questions, including Uma's inquiry about integrating art into the medical field. Jesse enthusiastically responded that the connection is inevitable, predicting that art will increasingly become a valuable tool for clinicians.

He left our kids an inspiring reminder of how art and storytelling can inspire, educate, and connect, making healthcare more relatable and empowering. Jesse's passion and expertise resonated deeply with our iCAN community, encouraging us all to think creatively about driving change in healthcare. Thank you, Jesse, for sharing your expertise and inspiring the next generation of changemakers!

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***“Short will join us in discussing Reshaping Pediatric Groups in Industry: Building a Strategic Action Plan. Mary will discuss the trend of the dissolution of Pediatric Centers of Excellence at pharmaceutical companies and its implications for the future of pediatric research and care. She will provide a call to action, encouraging participants to write letters and record videos to industry leaders, politicians, and others to emphasize the importance of pediatric specialty groups.”***

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Mark your calendars- iCAN invites you to another installment of *Ask the Experts* on January 11!



We are excited to announce our next *Ask the Experts* session on Saturday, January 11, at 8 AM PST | 11 AM EST | 5 PM CET. Mary Short will join us in discussing *Reshaping Pediatric Groups in Industry: Building a Strategic Action Plan*. Mary will discuss the trend of the dissolution of Pediatric Centers of Excellence at pharmaceutical companies and its implications for the future of pediatric research and care. She will provide a call to action, encouraging participants to write letters and record videos to industry leaders, politicians, and others to emphasize the importance of pediatric specialty groups. Mary is a retired Clinical Research Advisor with 20 years of experience in pediatric drug development and product launches. With expertise in Phase 2-4 study design, youth, and caregiver engagement, and 24 years as a Neonatal Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist, Mary brings a wealth of knowledge and a proven ability to drive change. We are excited to hear from Mary on this important topic!

[Secure your spot by registering here today!](#)

iCAN Chapter Spotlights:

KIDS Polpednet Spreads Holiday Cheer: A Heartwarming Initiative

**NEONATOLOGY TODAY is interested in publishing manuscripts from Neonatologists, Fellows, NNPs and those involved in caring for neonates on case studies, research results, hospital news, meeting announcements, and other pertinent topics.**

**Please submit your manuscript to: [LomaLindaPublishingCompany@gmail.com](mailto:LomaLindaPublishingCompany@gmail.com)**



We are excited to visit KIDS Poland virtually (via Instagram) to highlight the amazing work they are doing! This holiday season, they are organizing a heartfelt gift collection for children in the hospital during this time. They collect items like board games, toys, and books to bring joy and comfort to these young patients,

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ensuring they feel cared for and supported.

What makes this initiative even more remarkable is that it was entirely their idea! They have genuinely spread holiday cheer to those who need it most. Their creativity, compassion, and generosity inspire us all, and we cannot wait to see the positive impact they will make. Stay tuned for more updates on this wonderful project—an excellent example of how kids can lead change in their communities! Make sure to follow their Instagram: @polpednet\_kids

#### KIDS Nebraska Makes an Impact on Healthcare Research

In a recent meeting with KIDS Nebraska, Sabina Schmidt Goldstein-Becerra, Executive Director of iCAN, had the opportunity to connect with this group of young changemakers. The session began with an icebreaker activity led by Rebekah, who introduced the game *Shazoom*. Participants identified popular songs like “Let It Go” and the “Elf” theme, adding a fun and festive start to the meeting.

Following the icebreaker, Sabina shared iCAN’s mission and how the organization amplifies children’s voices in research and medicine to new members. She highlighted the importance of children’s feedback in shaping industry practices and improving healthcare outcomes.

***“A key part of the meeting was Dr. Neemann’s introduction of an ongoing study on strep throat treatment. Currently, guidelines recommend a 10-day course of antibiotics for treating strep throat, but the study explores the possibility of reducing the duration while maintaining effectiveness.”***

A key part of the meeting was Dr. Neemann’s introduction of an ongoing study on strep throat treatment. Currently, guidelines recommend a 10-day course of antibiotics for treating strep throat, but the study explores the possibility of reducing the duration while maintaining effectiveness. Dr. Neemann sought feedback from the KIDS Nebraska participants, asking them to consider their antibiotic experiences and whether a shorter treatment regimen would be preferable. The group discussed the potential benefits—such as fewer side effects and improved patient compliance—and the challenges of ensuring the treatment remains effective. Their insights will help guide the study and its next steps.

This session highlighted KIDS Nebraska’s important role in influencing healthcare research and practices. Their contributions continue to inspire change, and we look forward to seeing how their involvement with iCAN will help shape the future of pediatric care.

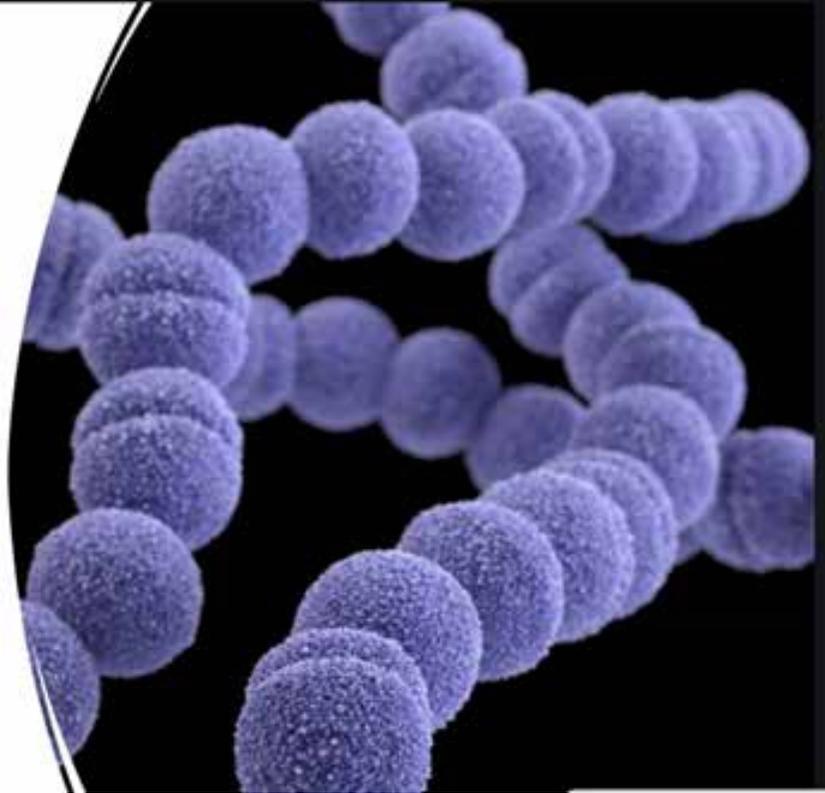
Sweeten the Season: Empower iCAN Kids!

This holiday season, we are excited to offer a sweet way for you



## Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis Study – Strep Throat Study

- Strep Throat is the most common cause of bacterial pharyngitis among children
- 3rd leading indication for antibiotic prescribing in outpatient practices
  - 1-2 million prescriptions/year in US



to support iCAN's mission. We have partnered with See's Candies for our Sweeten the Season: Empower iCAN Kids fundraiser! Now, you can treat yourself (or someone special) to some of the finest chocolates and confections, all while helping make a difference.

Here is how it works:

- The prices of See's Candies products are standardly marked so that you can enjoy the same great value.
- 20% of all purchases will go directly to supporting iCAN's Summit, where we empower young people to lead and drive change in healthcare.
- Your order will be mailed so you can enjoy your sweet treats directly without hassle.

By shopping through this [link](#), you will satisfy your sweet tooth and contribute to the next generation of healthcare changemakers. Your support helps provide the tools and opportunities for iCAN kids to thrive.

Thank you for sweetening the season with us and empowering iCAN kids to make a real impact. Every purchase makes a difference; we could not do it without you!

iCAN's 2025 Annual Research and Advocacy Summit  
Presented by Jumo Health  
July 14-17



***“Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the 2025 iCAN Summit in the vibrant city of Montreal! From July 14-17, join us at the incredible Delta Hotel (Marriott) in the heart of Montreal’s entertainment district.”***



# Impact Fall 20 Fundraiser 24



Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the 2025 iCAN Summit in the vibrant city of Montreal! From July 14-17, join us at the incredible Delta Hotel (Marriott) in the heart of Montreal's entertainment district. This is your chance to be part of a movement shaping pediatric healthcare's future. The Delta Hotel offers a family-friendly, fully accessible environment, making it the perfect setting for our community, industry leaders, clinicians, researchers, and more to come together, collaborate, and ignite change.

Mark your calendars—registration opens on Thursday, February 20! Stay tuned for more details as we prepare to make an extraordinary impact on pediatric care.

Our annual Summit is a transformative platform for innovation, compassion, and collaboration in pediatric healthcare. We invite you to be part of this life-changing event by contributing in two meaningful ways:

1. Sponsor the 2025 Summit: Your sponsorship will ensure an impactful experience for all attendees.
2. Sponsor a Child to Attend: Your sponsorship directly impacts a child's life by granting them the opportunity to attend the Summit in Canada. Your support will cover travel, accommodation, and participation, offering them a world of learning and empowerment.

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***“Your contribution—big or small—significantly impacts prioritizing the patient voice and driving positive change. Your generosity and dedication are deeply valued. Let us unite in Canada to create a summit experience that will empower the pediatric community for years.”***

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Let us collaborate to make our 2025 Summit even bigger by bringing more kids to share their voices! To contribute to the funding for next year's Summit, please [click here](#) to sponsor or donate.

**Disclosures:** *There are no reported disclosures*

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