

News Release

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Pulse Magazine Spotlights TTUHSC Impact on Childhood Cancer Journeys *TTUHSC captures powerful stories of hope and resilience*

The [Winter 2025 edition of Pulse](#), the magazine of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), features a powerful story of hope and resilience, showing the remarkable journeys of families battling childhood cancer.

The feature story, “[Getting From Here to There](#),” describes the emotional and physical challenges faced by those with pediatric cancers.

Readers will be moved by 4-year-old Emmie Rangel and her mother’s joyous message, “Emmie is Cancer Freeeee!!” following her daughter’s successful treatment for high-risk neuroblastoma. Paxton Kirkland, who battled rhabdomyosarcoma, was declared cancer-free after six months of intensive treatment.

Mohamad Al-Rahawan, M.D., MPH, director for the pediatric hematology oncology fellowship program and professor of pediatrics at TTUHSC, offers insights into the challenges and triumphs of treating childhood cancer. He emphasizes the importance of early diagnosis and the long-term impact of treatment on young patients.

“During my early rotations, I was doing a pediatric oncology rotation, and I realized that if I help a kid survive, not only get better but survive and multiply the years that they’re going to survive, that’s an impact,” Al-Rahawan shares in a video interview. “Most of the kids are completely cured with minimal outcomes and side effects that they had to survive for long term.”

The story also underscores the unique challenges faced by families in rural areas, who often have to travel long distances for specialized cancer care. Al-Rahawan acknowledges the difficulties families encounter, including juggling work, managing uncertainty and maintaining priorities.

“It takes a village to do this — from research to clinic to hospitals to support system,” Al-Rahawan adds.

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The village Al-Rahawan refers to includes C. Patrick Reynolds, M.D., Ph.D., director of the School of Medicine Cancer Center at TTUHSC and director of the Children's Oncology Group Childhood Cancer Repository.

In his Reynolds, "[From Submarines to Childhood Cancer Research](#)," Reynolds shares how his interest in biology and biological research led him to work in cancer research.

"My research is translational, and it's interacting between the laboratory and the clinic," Reynolds explains in a video. "They send us viable cancer samples, which we grow in a laboratory. Then we can use those to understand cancer biology and develop new drugs."

The profile includes his work with the Childhood Cancer Repository, a resource laboratory for the Children's Oncology Group, the largest organization devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer research in the U.S. The Children's Oncology Group is a cooperative for childhood cancer research in the U.S.

The Winter 2025 edition of *Pulse* magazine is available [online](#) and in print.