



St. Christopher's
Hospital for Children

A PARTNERSHIP OF TOWER HEALTH
AND DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Annual Keith Herzog, MD Grand Rounds

[Read the background and goals of the Herzog Dialogue](#)

The Path Out of Uncertainty: Developing Diagnostic Reasoning Skills

Friday, September 9, 7:45 a.m.



Speaker:

Michael Dell, MD

Professor, Pediatrics
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Vice Chair for Education
Division Chief
General Academic Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine
Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, Cleveland, OH

Event agenda

7:30 a.m.
Continental
Breakfast

7:45 a.m.
Hybrid meeting
starts

7:50 a.m.
Dr. Keith Herzog
Welcome

8 a.m.
Grand Rounds
by Dr. Dell

Dr. Michael Dell is a Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, he earned his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed his Pediatrics residency and chief residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Following his training, he was a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics for two years at the Medical College of Pennsylvania/Hahnemann University School of Medicine and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children before joining the faculty at CWRU School of Medicine and Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in 1998. He is the Division Chief for General Academic Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, as well as a member of the Pediatric Hospital Medicine staff. He has served as the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education at RB&C since 1999 and the Vice Chair for Education since 2018, and he is active on numerous education committees for the hospital and the medical school. He has won numerous awards for teaching excellence, including the Kaiser Permanent Award for excellence in teaching, induction into the inaugural class of the Academy of Scholar Educators at CWRU School of Medicine and the inaugural class of Distinguished Physicians at University Hospitals. He has served as the founding Director of the Academy of Scholar Educators since 2015. He has been an active member of several national education organizations, and he is the senior editor for *Aquifer Pediatrics*. He has co-authored several papers and run workshops locally and nationally on medical education, with a special interest in clinical decision-making, and the use of virtual patients for clinical education.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the learning habits of expert medical diagnosticians
2. Create a differential diagnosis for cognitive diagnostic errors
3. Utilize specific educational approaches to promote the development diagnostic reasoning skills



Dr. Keith Herzog attended Duke University followed by medical school at the Univ. of North Carolina. Having been very positively

impacted by his mentors during his pediatric clerkship, Dr. Herzog pursued his pediatric residency at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. He continued his training at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children with a 3-year fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases under the guidance and mentorship of internationally recognized figures Dr. Sarah Long and Dr. Margaret Fisher. Dr. Herzog was able to use his general pediatric and infectious diseases training to advantage in his subsequent work as a pediatric hospitalist at Holy Redeemer Hospital and returned to St. Christopher's in that capacity full time in 1999. He maintained his board certification in infectious diseases and remained a member of the Section of Infectious Diseases as well as General Pediatrics. In 2008 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and transitioned to the outpatient clinic to achieve a more predictable schedule. Along with that transition he took on increasing medical school responsibilities both in the pre-clinical years and the pediatric clerkship and was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Drexel University College of Medicine. During his tenure at St. Christopher's, Dr. Herzog served on numerous committees and was Director of Inpatient Services and Director of Quality Management for several years. More recently, he served as Director of Continuing Medical Education. He has published a number of articles and book chapters, presided over SCHC Grand Rounds, and been an invited speaker at local and regional meetings. He has received local recognition for his clinical work by being named among "Top Docs" in Philadelphia Magazine 2018-20. He also has received a number of awards from both medical students and residents for his classroom and bedside teaching including the most symbolic of his career at SCHC, the Margaret Fisher "Spirit of St. Christopher's" award.

Please join us in the DiGeorge Auditorium (max. 70 people) or online via Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 775-861-076 Password: 862640 [Save this date to your calendar](#)

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Physicians, Advanced Practice Providers, Nursing, Fellows, Residents, Medical Students and other healthcare professionals.

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CREDIT

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Excellence in Pediatric Care: The St. Chris Way

The Herzog Dialogue

"Listen to your patient..."

"Listen to your patient; (s)he is telling you the diagnosis." With characteristic precision, Dr. William Osler, considered by many the "Father of modern medicine," emphasized the fundamental importance of a thorough, thought-full (variant spelling intended) history from patients. This evolving patient narrative, along with a fastidious and directed physical exam, should always provide the basis for hypothesis generation and differential diagnosis. These hypotheses then guide the choice of focused laboratory and/or imaging studies and provide rationale for successful empiric therapy. In contrast, assigning undue significance to results of misguided investigative studies often leads the physician down a tangential path, to the ultimate detriment of the patient.

Despite that remonstrance, the temptation to rely on "tests" or 'studies' remains a common cause of cognitive errors among physicians, especially early in their training. This in part due to a perception that 'tests' are objective, scientific, and reproducible. Given these ostensible advantages, an abnormal study is often seized upon and given undue emphasis. The physician takes an intellectual "shortcut" and espouses a putative but often incorrect diagnosis even when the abnormal value does not explain the major presenting signs and symptoms. It is largely due to observation of experienced, skilled clinicians that the physician in training eventually learns to invest their time and effort in the person (patient) before them. It is (s)he who needs care, not the laboratory.

The impetus behind this series of lectures is to emphasize these fundamental principles that are the basis of effective patient care. St. Christopher's Hospital for Children (SCHC) has a long history of excellence in this regard, with a number of luminaries of the past achieving national and international recognition for their insight into unusual patient disorders or presentations (for example infant botulism, DiGeorge Syndrome). These then serve as an example and shed light the path for the next generation of physicians as they "pay it forward".

Dr. Herzog's comments:

Despite residency training at a reputable institution with a program director who did emphasize fundamental clinical skills, I admit that I did not adequately internalize the foundational importance of informed, insightful history taking and physical examination until my fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at SCHC. Under the very patient guidance of my mentors Dr. Sarah Long and Dr. Margaret (Meg) Fisher, and with the influence of numerous other superb clinicians at SCHC, I finally began to fully appropriate the intrinsic value of being able to recognize patterns of illness and understand underlying pathophysiology. This contributed greatly to the fastidious and effective care that our patients received. I knew in relatively short order that St. Chris was my medical "home". Twenty-five years later- no regrets, and many, many thanks for an immensely rewarding career with the best people in the business, the unconditional support of my wonderful family, and the blessing that is: St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.