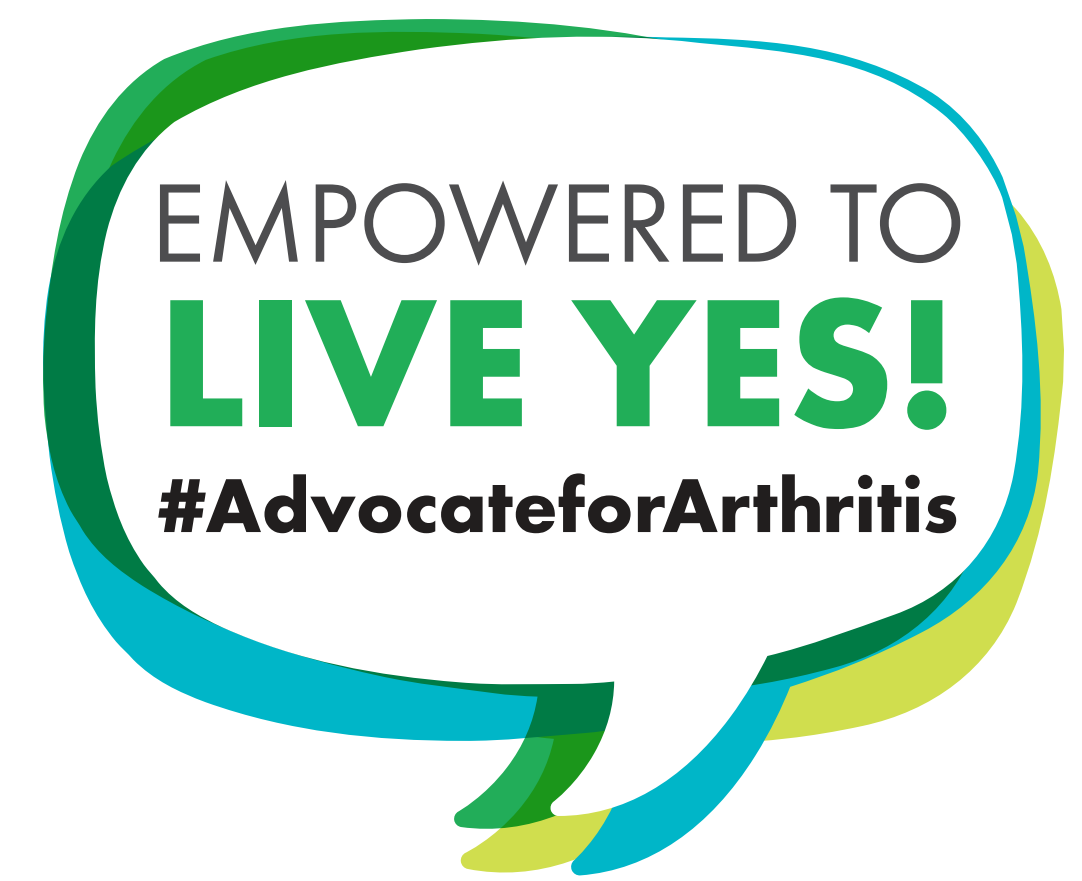


Educating Future Health Care Providers



Ethan Berkovitz, *Platinum Ambassador, Ohio State Advocacy Committee Member, Former Junior Ambassador*

Overview: As a Junior Ambassador, I took on this project for the last three years when invited by the Arthritis Foundation of Northeast Ohio because it gave me the opportunity to teach, and hopefully, inspire Case Western Reserve University, first-year medical students. I also knew it would be a great opportunity for me to talk about the Pediatric Rheumatologist shortage, in hopes that they would choose this path as new medical students.

“I found out that most of the students did not know kids get arthritis, so they were quite surprised to hear my story.”

- Ethan Berkovitz

Method

- I was invited by the Arthritis Foundation to meet with first-year medical students at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.
- I described to the students how caring my rheumatologist has been, and how important patient-centered care was to reduce my anxiety. He also spoke directly to me before my parents, and made sure I understood what was going on with my body. He would ask if he could touch me before he actually did, and this empowered me as his patient.
- My mom also spoke about the parent’s perspective of juvenile arthritis. She talked about her worries about when I was first diagnosed, but how having immediate care close to home was a key factor in my medical remission.
- We had many different documents for them to look over, including packets from the Arthritis Foundation office and a copy of Cleveland Magazine with an article about my personal story.
- I talked about how the Arthritis Foundation has supported me by providing materials that we could give to my teachers, and got me involved in fundraising, and advocacy. We shared the Pediatric Rheumatology Shortage Map, and talked about some key access to care issues.



Takeaways: The students had to write a paper about their experience, and had great feedback on sharing my story and the importance of pediatric rheumatology. Students provided insightful feedback, and one wrote: *“I appreciate learning about juvenile arthritis from a patient’s perspective. It definitely helps me understand how it feels to have a chronic disease and how to best communicate with them. Thank you for talking to us about juvenile arthritis. Your story was inspiring!”*