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## **Gokul Krishnan, PhD**

Gokul Krishnan, PhD, is a learning scientist, mechanical engineer, healthcare innovator, and STEM Research Associate at WestEd. He is the founder of Project M@CH (Makerspace at Children's Hospital) and the creator of the "Maker Therapy" approach. Krishnan designed and constructed the world's first mobile Makerspaces, which help to address the needs of chronically ill patients at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. His inspirational "think-outside-the-box" attitude towards learning in an unconventional setting like a children's hospital has contributed to frequent media exposure (e.g., interviews with CBS Evening News, NPR's "All Things Considered", Fast Company, Popular Mechanics), numerous awards (e.g., the White House's "Honorary Maker" Award), and several prominent speaking engagements (e.g., Cannes Lion Health, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Cognizant Women Empowered Executive Forums). With the help of the Maker Therapy model, Krishnan is on a mission to create a more hopeful world for children living with chronic illnesses.