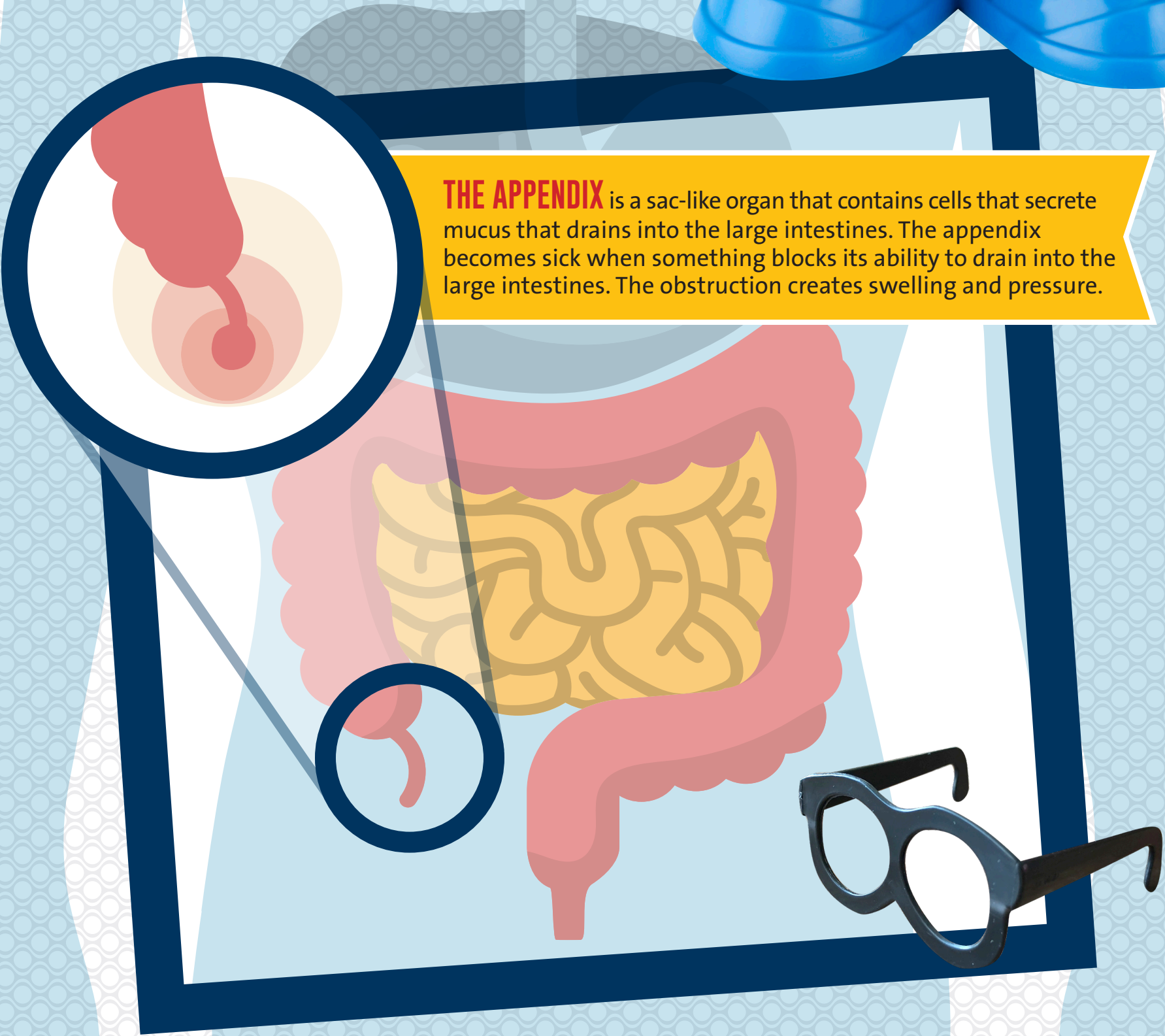



YES, I'M THE *Great* IMITATOR

Appendicitis

JUST LIKE MR. POTATO HEAD, IT'S A DISEASE THAT CAN LOOK AND FEEL LIKE MANY OTHER THINGS.

Appendicitis is a common illness that affects people of all ages although it is most commonly found in younger adults. Symptoms of the illness include right lower quadrant pain, fever, chills, and usually an elevated white blood cell count.



THE APPENDIX is a sac-like organ that contains cells that secrete mucus that drains into the large intestines. The appendix becomes sick when something blocks its ability to drain into the large intestines. The obstruction creates swelling and pressure.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF IT'S APPENDICITIS? *Or something else with similar symptoms?*

APPENDICITIS IS A DISEASE THAT CAN LOOK AND FEEL LIKE MANY OTHER THINGS. You can have pain in the low midline instead of the right lower quadrant or you could just have pain in your back. Some people think they're having a GI virus because of nausea and vomiting and find out later on that it is appendicitis.

The most important thing is to understand the variety of warning signs that appendicitis can display. Timely treatment of the disease is critical to positive outcomes.

ANYONE WHO IS EXPERIENCING THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS SHOULD SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT WAY:



ABDOMINAL PAIN




FEVER WITH CHILLS

Abdominal pain that is new or unusual that starts at the belly button and migrates to the lower right quadrant, and fever with chills.

THESE ARE THE SIGNS THAT SHOULD DIRECT A PERSON TO EMERGENCY CARE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF EXPERIENCING THEM

TREATMENT OF APPENDICITIS:



300,000
APPENDECTOMIES
performed across the country each year.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF APPENDICITIS IN THE UNITED STATES IS THE SURGICAL REMOVAL OF THE ORGAN, KNOWN AS AN APPENDECTOMY.

The surgery can often be performed laparoscopically if caught early and no perforation of the organ has occurred.

For more information on appendicitis, visit PremierPhysicianNet.com/familyhealth.

SOURCE: L. Stewart Lowry, MD, Miami County Surgeons