New Faculty- (Re) Introducing Dr. Winter Berry
I am thrilled to be continuing my time at Upstate as a UPAC attending! For the few Crier readers who don’t know me, I was born in Keene, New Hampshire but spent my “younger years” all over New England. I lived in New Hampshire until 8th grade, continued on to Connecticut for high school at an all girls’ boarding school, then off to Brandeis University in Waltham, MA for college, moved into Boston proper for some research work at Dana Farber Cancer Institute after undergrad, and, finally, moved to southern Maine for medical school. I happily joined the Pediatrics Department here at Upstate as a resident in 2010 and loved it so much I stayed!

My husband and I have been married for 3 years now (time flies!), and we have a 7 month old son Reese. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with Reese, reading, learning to cook and fly fish (and failing miserably at both which doesn’t seem to discourage my very patient husband), trying new restaurants, and visiting Green Lakes as much as possible. I look forward to working with everyone in the OPD.

2013 ASAP Medical Mission to Ghana
Lauri Rupracht
On May 25, 2013, several Upstate employees embarked on a journey to Ghana, Africa for a 2 week medical mission trip. The Americans Serving Abroad Project (ASAP) was organized by Lauri Rupracht, RN from CDBG, in partnership with the Elghan organization in Ghana. While there, the 13 member ASAP team (made up of nurses, medical students and others with a desire to help others in need) set up temporary medical posts in 6 different rural villages. They performed screenings for hypertension, diabetes, did breast exams, dental exams and gave first aid treatment. Health teaching was also done with the assistance of interpreters. During the course of the 2 weeks, 1300 people were given care in villages where access to health care is extremely limited.

While in Ghana, the ASAP team went on a safari at Mole National Forest, did the Kakum canopy walk, and toured a former slave castle. The team also interacted with the local people, learning much about the culture and their healthcare delivery system. They visited hospitals where they delivered medical supplies and local schools where they donated shoes and shirts. Many Upstate staff were very generous in donating shoes and monetary donations for medical supplies. The ASAP team wishes to thank all those who helped make the trip a huge success and helped us make such a positive impact.

In the picture above, the kids at this orphanage are wearing Syracuse T-Shirts (courtesy of Syracuse-based HolyShirts) and holding stuffed bears donated by our department. As Lauri explains, “We left a little piece of Syracuse in Ghana.”

Anyone wishing to participate or donate to a future volunteer trip with ASAP should contact Lauri Rupracht at ruprachl@upstate.edu.

Vaccine Champion does it again!
Joe Domachowske has been awarded the American Academy of Pediatrics Global Immunization Grant. Keep an eye out for the first Global Vaccine Dinner Seminar to be held locally in early September. The program will be free to all Pediatric trainees and AAP members.

Save the Date
Save the date for a Vaccine discussion over dinner and dessert on Thursday September 12, 2013 at the Craftsman Inn at 6 PM. The American Academy of Pediatrics Global Vaccine Advocacy Grant Recipient, Dr. Joe Domachowske will present a brief seminar during dinner: Global access to Vaccines: Recent Successes and Remaining Obstacles. The dinner is open to all Pediatricians and Pediatric residents. There is no cost to the first 50 people who RSVP! Dinner and dessert are paid for by the AAP. Formal invitations will be send out in August.

Report from the 4th Annual Asian Pacific Vaccine Congress, Cebu Philippines
Joe Domachowske
It was a great opportunity to attend and present at the Asian Pacific Vaccine Congress last month. The meeting was attended by more than 800 people from at least 18 Asian countries. The meeting was hosted by our Filipino friends—some of the warmest and most hospitable folks I have ever had the pleasure to meet.

While many of the vaccine preventable disease troubles in Asia are similar to ours, they also have an enormous burden of Japanese encephalitis virus infection. One of the most important areas of progress in vaccines for this area of the world is the availability of a JE vaccine that is (finally!) safe…even down to 2 mos of age. Another infection that was discussed at length at the meeting was dengue. Currently, there is no vaccine, but one is not be far off since a candidate vaccine was safe and effective at preventing three of the four serotypes of dengue. There is more work to do, but dengue endemic areas of the world will likely soon see a safe and effective vaccine for that pest as well.
A pre-meeting agenda included EPI officers from each county to discuss progress in polio eradication. India now joins the world as a polio free country since 2011! With resources from GAVI (including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), the goal of a polio free planet may actually be realized in the next decade.

I was asked to present on three topics. First I met with the Indian delegation to review the U.S. experience with invasive meningococcal disease, and the huge success with conjugate meningococcal vaccine. Since almost all of the outbreaks in India are caused by capsular type A, the Indian subcontinent could benefit from implementing mening vaccine into their current schedule. The primary obstacle (no surprise) is cost. India is a ‘GAVI’ eligible country so working through the logistics of vaccine availability through GAVI are realistic. My second presentation was on vaccine hesitancy. This is a primary focus of my current work here in NY, but the purpose of the presentation in Cebu was to address vaccine concerns specific to the Asian-Pacific community. Primary areas of concern and hesitancy in this part of the world are based on cost and perceived effectiveness (or lack thereof) of vaccines. Some concerns related to vaccine safety were discussed, but there was little focus on the issues that we hear so much about here (mercury, autism, aluminum, etc). My third presentation was for the early risers who wanted to continue our discussion about the U.S. vaccine schedule and recent decisions made by the ACIP. This ‘meet the experts’ session was informal, but the room was quite crowded, and the discussion points went on for more than an hour until the start of the general session. It was very rewarding to speak to people from so many different countries. They are hungry both for vaccine information or for strategies to implement new vaccines into their current public health programs—especially vaccines that are already routine in the U.S. and other developed nations. When I returned from Cebu, I applied for and was awarded an AAP Global Vaccine Grant. The purpose of the grant is to increase global vaccine awareness among U.S. providers. The first of the seminars will be held in early September—a dinner presentation locally (by me) that will be free to AAP members and pediatric trainees. Anyone who wants to hear more about the Cebu meeting, or the experiences I have had in El Salvador, Saudi Arabia, or Spain last year should consider attending. The potential topics of discussion are almost limitless!

More Vaccine News
Dr. Jana Shaw was featured in the 7/18 issue of Upstate Online with her study on vaccine exemptions.


NASPGHAN Faculty Award
Congratulations to former resident Imad Absah (Class of 2009) for receiving the 2013 NASPGHAN Young Faculty Clinical Investigator Award for his abstract entitled "Mucosal Healing in Children with Treated celiac disease (CD)". Imad will be presenting his work at the Annual NASPGHAN meeting in Chicago on October 12.

Team Intersussception
The residents and their families & friends have been participating in an adult kickball league this summer- team name Intersusception, team captain Steve Hicks- and we lost every game this season except this Sunday, when we won 8-0, thanks to a lot of team spirit. Attached is a photo of the winning team on Sunday, 6/30, enjoying some celebratory ice cream at Heid's after the game. Thanks, Allison

Welcome Baby Smith!
Congratulations to Emily Smith who gave birth to 8 lb; 13 oz baby girl Sarah Violet Smith on 7/19. Mom and Sarah are doing great!

Welcome Baby Haider
We also got a birth announcement from former resident, Zahi Haider on the arrival of baby girl Aya Chole on 6/7/13 at 6 lbs; 6 oz. Congratulations Zahi

Welcome Baby Teelin
Congratulations to Dr. Karen Teelin on the birth of baby girl Tess Ann Teelin who was born on 7/13 at 8 lb 5 ounces.

Karen reported, “She and I are both doing well so far! Thank you to everyone for all the support during the pregnancy!”

Just Married!
Congratulations to former resident Rana El Feghaly (Class of 2010) who married her long-time friend, Sami Sila on July 14th. Rana tells the Crier, “Sami and I had a cozy ceremony here in Lebanon with our close family, in the Lady of Lebanon, Harrissa church.” Rana and Sami will be living in Mississippi where Rana will be working in Peds ID.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS
8/2 Archie Ramaswami
8/6 Steve Hicks
8/8 Tara Wilhoit
8/9 Ann Sveen, Caitlin Sgarlat
8/10 Mark Claus, Jody Sima
8/15 Melissa Schafer
8/17 Craig Byrum
8/22 Beth Nelsen