Dr. Weinberger Retires
It is official. After working at Upstate in the Dept of Pediatrics for over 50 years, Dr. Howard Weinberger will be retiring at the end of January. The Crier had the opportunity to interview him one last time before his departure.

Crier: You’ve been working here long enough that some of the newer faculty and residents might not know what year you started here at Upstate and some of the titles and positions you have held in the department over the years.

HLW: After graduation from Upstate Medical Center (one of the older names of our distinguished institution) in 1958, I completed three years of residency here and then left for my military service at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). I spent three years there doing research in virology and epidemiology of infectious diseases in the army. I returned to Upstate and joined the faculty of the Department of Pediatrics in 1964 and have been here ever since.

I have had many different roles in the Department and in the Medical School over the course of my career, including:
- Director of General Pediatrics (1972-1993)
- Residency Program Director (1974-1984)
- Medical Director of the CNY Poison Control Center (1967-1991)
- Medical Director of the CNY / Eastern New York Regional Lead Poisoning Resource Center (1994-present)
- Chair of the Department of Pediatrics (1993-1999)

Crier: Of the many titles and roles you have had over the years, do you have a favorite?

HLW: That is like asking which of my children (or grand children is my favorite). As I think back, each presented a challenge and offered me an opportunity to grow and develop as a faculty member. Clearly, I get the most pleasure interacting with students, residents and of course, the children and families we care for.

Crier: Do you have plans for your retirement? Will they include us at all?

HLW: Actually, I hope to be able to work part time at UPAC and to continue in my role as consultant for Lead Poisoning for the Onondaga County and NY State Health Departments. With some more free time, I plan to take courses at OASIS and when the weather permits, work in my garden. Everyone seems to like my rhubarb.

Crier: Before you leave, do you have any last words of wisdom for the residents who will soon become pediatricians?

HLW:
- Be curious! Ask yourself "what is different about this child and why is s/he coming to see me today?"
- Never stop learning - from your patients, families, colleagues and teachers
- Appreciate how resilient children are
- Be an advocate for children and their families - as my first Chair (Dr Julius Richmond taught: "When Pediatricians speak for Pediatricians, no one listens; when Pediatricians speak for children, everyone listens."

Crier: Any other thoughts or memories you would like to share with us?

HLW: One additional thought: Perseverance is important. Over the years, many people (within the medical center and the community at large) advocated for the development of a Children's Hospital in Syracuse. We had a number of "false starts" but we persevered and when the time was right, with the right leadership, our goal was achieved. So, don't be discouraged or impatient when you propose change. Sometimes, a good idea needs time to incubate.

Air Hockey in the GCH
Thanks to the generosity of former GCH patient Kayleigh Przytula, the GCH is now the proud owners of its own Air Hockey Table. Kayleigh was hospitalized just before Christmas and, as a self-proclaimed “air hockey ninja” decided to try to raise enough money to be able to donate an Air Hockey Table to the GCH for other kids who would have to spend time here. Her parents set up an online donation website and quickly exceeded their goal (no pun intended). The rest is hockey history.


Winning Snowmen
Back in December, the GCH held its 2nd Annual Child Life Snowman Decorating Contest. The snowmen were the decorations for the Pediatric Holiday
Dinner for the families that are inpatient at GCH. The winners are as follows:
First Place - "Charlie Brown" created by Cheryl Kardjian and Robin Grabowski for the Foundation office
Second Place - "Under the Sea" created by the Staff of Pediatric Multispecialty Center
Third place - "Jack Frosty in the Box" created by the staff of the Pediatric Neph/Rheum Clinic

The winners received an ice cream social, along with Bragging Rights until next year!

Poster Pix
The 11/13 issue of the Crier mentioned the poster that Jenny Lin and Jamie Cary (along with Dr. Ran Anbar) presented at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in October in Salt Lake City. The Crier has been patiently waiting and finally received the photographic evidence from Jenny:

Where Are They Now? Roopa Shankar
The Crier learned that former resident Roopa Shankar (2009) just moved to Richmond, Virginia to start her new job. She tells the Crier, “Yes! Arrived in Richmond, a couple of weeks ago. I have joined the Division of Endocrinology, Children's Hospital of Richmond as a pediatric endocrinology attending. The official designation is 'Assistant Professor of Pediatrics'.” Congratulations, Roopa!

Paige’s Butterfly Run Raises $214,000
Upstate Online announced that the 2013 Paige’s Butterfly Run raised 214K to help fight childhood cancer at the GCH. The 2014 Paige’s Butterfly Run is set for Saturday, June 7 in downtown Syracuse. For more information, visit www.pbrun.org.

Residents and Ugly Sweaters
Yes, we all know it is true that residents work very hard. Some, however, do their best to compensate for that by some good healthy competition in their free time. We have no idea who the winner was in the resident ugly sweater competition held in December but it was obvious that the competition was fierce.

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month

By Lisa Blystone
The Star-of-the-Month goes to Stephanie Oliva for graciously filling in on negative-last minute notice for a fellow resident at the Onondaga Nation Clinic. She’s a true star. Steph, please stop by the pediatric offices and pick up your stars prize from Patty or Lisa.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
2/2 Ryan Kwong
2/3 Kevin Ragosta
2/4 Hilliary Sismondo
2/14 Winter Berry, Steve Blatt
2/18 Leonard Weiner
2/24 Manny Karjoo, Richie Cantor
2/28 Nellie Sadaghiani