The PAS Report
The annual Pediatric Academic Societies meeting was held in Washington, DC from May 4-7. One of our embedded reporters, Dr. Aamer Imdad, sent the following report:

“This is to share with you the experience of presentation of three abstracts at PAS 2013 at Washington DC last week. The presentations went very well and people took great interest in our work. I also got a chance to interact with other people at the conference who are working on similar topics. I also attended workshops and learnt new things like decision and cost effective analysis. I met some of the previous graduates from SUNY Upstate who are now working at faculty positions. Overall, the experience was great and I enjoyed my time there.

I would like to say special thanks to my supervisors Dr Shaw from the division of infectious disease and Dr Fortner from Peds Pulmonology. Both of the faculty members were of great help in conducting the research and preparing the poster presentation for the meetings. Thanks a lot to the department of Pediatrics for continuous support for my research over the last two years and I hope I shall be able to contribute more before I graduate in 2014.” – Aamer Imdad

Aamer notified the Crier one of his PAS posters was featured as a news item in Infectious Diseases in Children. Congratulations, Aamer!

In addition to Aamer, Drs. Suryadevra and Domachowske were also at PAS presenting their research.

Former resident Nisrine El Chami (2006) dropped us a note and a picture she had taken with Christian Hanna (2010), and Majd Dardas (2010) at PAS. Then, former resident and photographer Rana El Feghaly (2010) sent additional pictures including one with Andy Wang (2009).

Not pictured but also presenting at PAS was former resident Nick Bennett (2008). We are proud of all of our residents, faculty, and former residents who represented us at this year’s meetings.

More Awards
The Howard Weinberger Award
Congratulations to MS-IV (soon-to-be first year resident) Christopher DeLaney who was the recipient of the 2013 Howard Weinberger Award. This award has been established by the pediatric community to acknowledge excellence in the graduating medical student who best exemplifies the ideals and qualities of the pediatrician as personified by Dr. Howard Weinberger. We are all very proud of Christopher and look forward to having him in our program.

Excellence in Faculty Service Award
Congratulations to Dr. Roberto Izquierdo who received a letter from President Smith informing him that he was chosen to receive the 2013 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. The Excellence Awards are System-level honors conferred to acknowledge and provide system-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. The Excellence in Faculty Service recognizes the consistently superior service contributions of teaching faculty. This service must be sustained over multiple years and may occur in a variety of venues. Award recipients personify professional excellence and serve as role models for the State University of New York community and its motto – “To Learn, To Search, To Serve.”

Excellence in GME
Congratulations to Patty Mondore for being the recipient of the Excellence in GME Program Coordinator of the Year award. Patty was honored along with Tri Nguyen (Excellence in Teaching) and Aamer Imdad (Excellence in Research) at the GME awards luncheon on May 22, 2013.
From Lebanon to Haiti (The Medical Missions of Wassim Ballan)  
After his training here in Syracuse, Wassim Ballan (Class of 2004) went on to complete a Peds ID fellowship at UCSF. He then joined a Peds ID practice in Phoenix, AZ, where he has been working since 2011. But in his own time, Wassim has done several medical mission trips to Haiti. Here is his story:

My first volunteer mission to Haiti was in May 2011. When I first signed up for it, I was very excited since it had been something that I wanted to do for a while but my work schedule at the time did not allow me to. However, I was also anxious knowing that I will have to work outside my comfort zone taking care of the sickest children in the country in a very resource-poor setting.

The organization that I go with is called Project Medishare through the University of Miami. The project was started 15 years ago, and immediately after the massive 2010 earthquake, the organization fielded the first medical team of foreign physicians to arrive in Haiti. Within days, Project Medishare had set up a 300 bed trauma and critical care field hospital on the grounds of the Port-au-Prince airport at the request of the Haitian president. In June 2010, after treating more than 30,000 earthquake victims, Project Medishare moved out of the tent hospital and into a non-profit community hospital, Hospital Bernard Mevs, which was only partially functional due to the post-quake conditions. Project Medishare brought in all of the high-tech equipment used at the field hospital, upgraded the hospital to include intensive care units for adults, children and premature babies, and turned Hospital Bernard Mevs into the only trauma and critical care hospital in Haiti. To put that into perspective, there is one critical care hospital for a population of 10 million people and Hospital Bernard Mevs Project Medishare is that place.

Each of my missions was eight days long. In Phoenix I'm a Pediatric infectious diseases physician, but when in Haiti I have to act as a neonatologist, intensivist, pediatric hospitalist, emergency doctor, the guy the adult physicians ask to look at weird rashes, and at times I was the only Pediatrician in the hospital for the whole 8 days that I'm there.

On my first trip the resources were very limited where we didn't even have the ability to intubate and mechanically ventilate any infants, but by my last mission a few months ago the care that could be provided has become relatively more advanced albeit still extremely limited compared to what could be done in a US hospital. There is still always a limited number of medications available, and even much more limited equipment and tests that could be used.

The mission of the project is not only to provide care to the Haitian patients, but also to work with the Haitian doctors, nurses, medical students and help share our medical expertise. However, a lot of times I found myself learning from them too. Their clinical judgment and their ability to make certain diagnoses without the use of any tests, because those tests simply don't even exist in Haiti, are very impressive.

Having been to Haiti multiple times I was able to witness the improvement and progress not only in what the hospital can now offer but also with the Pediatric nurses, pediatricians and the other pediatric practicing doctors. In addition, I was also able to have some follow up on some of the patients I took care of. One particular story on my second mission is of a 2-day old girl named Rut-Saida who was brought to the hospital in fulminant sepsis. On the day I had to leave which was three days after she had been in the hospital it looked like there was a very slim chance that she would survive. The baby's mother is a street vendor and the father died while she was pregnant with her. The mother had no family or other support in Port-au-Prince, and she was well aware of how grim her baby's situation is. I left Haiti not expecting that she would have survived. However, on my last mission in December 2012, which was exactly a year later, the patient's mother saw me at the hospital while she was waiting outside the outpatient clinic and followed me into the pediatric ward and gave me a hug, with her now one year old daughter Rut-Saida (see photo). It took me only a second to remember the mother. That beautiful surprise came after a rough night in the pediatric unit and all of the sudden made everything look better and the work being done there totally worth it.

All in all each of my trips was both physically and emotionally exhausting. You witness what could be preventable death of children every day. However, after each trip I was able to look at the medicine being practiced in the US from a different perspective and appreciate the resources we have available and also try not to overuse them. Most importantly I'm able to offer my help, even if in a small fraction, a resilient and extremely appreciative population that is much less fortunate than most others, and learn from the people there that there's so much we are taking for granted. I highly encourage everyone to check out
Fearless Movie Stars
Winter Berry recently made another appearance on the silver screen co-starring with Dr. Ann Botash as part of the new "Residents as Fearless Teachers" initiative. The talk, "Upstate Residents as Fearless Teachers: The Learning Environment" was developed by Dr. Botash and is an interesting presentation about how to create a positive learning environment for your learners. It can be viewed online at: http://amms.upstate.edu/c/facdev/13-003-FacDev_Botash/index.htm

Flower Power
Dr. Bob Lebel was recently featured in the What's Up at Upstate blog. If you have ever wanted to know the story behind his flower-a-day, the blog will answer the question for you. http://whatsupatupstate.wordpress.com/2013/05/01/a-flower-a-day-makes-this-doctor-happy/

Color Them Rad
It turns out that several Pediatric residents and staff were in the pink (and just about every other color of the rainbow) after crossing the finish line in the “Color Me Rad” fun run on May 4th. They not only had fun and some great exercise but some of the

Pediatric Mountain Goats
Congratulations to at least three members of the department who ran the 10-mile Mountain Goat run on May 5th. Tristan Lindberg, Anne Sveen, Katie Fry, Ashley Meyer, Brian Tran, and Steve Blatt all crossed the finish line. Special congrats to Tristan for coming in 229 out of the 2517 runners who finished.

Four Perfect Matches
Congratulations to Aamer Indad who matched in Peds GI at Vanderbilt Univeristy in Nashville (it was his first choice), Archie Ramaswami, who also got her first choice matching in Peds GI at Mt. Sinai in New York,

Marwan Al Aswad who matched in Peds ID in Denver, and Jenny Lin who matched in Peds Pulm at Montefiore! We are proud of you all!

Welcome Baby Asma
Congratulations to Ibraheem (Bob) Al Shareef and his wife on the birth of baby girl Asma born on May 15 at 6 lb;8oz.

June Dates To Remember
6/13 – Housestaff Appreciation Dinner
6/21 – Meet-the-new Intern luncheon
6/26 – Intern picnic at Jamesville Beach

Pediatric Fine Arts
Speaking of flowers, this month we feature another one of our own Pediatric photographers with one of the lovely nature pictures of Lisa Blystone. Thank you for sharing! (Red Trillium)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS
6/11 Joan Pellegrino
6/13 Shelly- Ann Williams
6/14 Jean Szkotak
6/16 Sue Delaney
6/21 Scott Schurman, Joe Nimeth
6/23 Neal Seidberg, Tim Harris
6/24 Prateek Wali
6/29 Tracy Gilgallon
6/30 Bill Hannan, Josh McBride