Welcome Dr. Federico Nievas

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Federico Fernandez Nievas, MD FAAP to the department and, specifically, to our PICU faculty. Dr. Nievas joins us from a faculty position in the PICU at the Cleveland Clinic. Rather than introducing himself in words, Federico shared a pictorial bio with the Crier that we hope you will all enjoy.


We did feel the need to ask about the trophy. Dr. Nievas explains, “Sam is a very good friend of mine and we were together doing the PICU fellowship. The trophy was given to the PICU for safety and quality. “When asked if he would be willing to share his BBQ recipe he replied, “The Argentinian Bbq “recipe” is passed from generations in our family and is a secret… (Just kidding) – Federico”.

Again, we warmly welcome Dr. Nievas and his family to our Pediatric Family.

Pediatrics Welcomes Maria Fazzini

We are pleased to introduce Maria Fazzini! Maria is our new licensed creative art therapist. Maria tells the Crier:

Hello Everyone! I am Maria Fazzini, the new Art Therapist! Yay! Born and raised in Central New York, in the snowbelt near Fulton, I have not gone far. I completed my undergraduate degree at Cazenovia College, and moved on to obtain my Master’s of Science in Creative Arts Therapy from Nazareth College in Rochester. I then worked to become both a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist and Art Therapy Registered- Board Certified. I settled down and rescued a dog, Sammie, bought a house and then got married last year. My Husband, Cory, works for the County IT department. We are currently working on remodeling our house to make it our own. Feel free to chat with me, or ask questions about Art Therapy anytime! I am so excited to get the Art Therapy Program back up and running and to be a part of the wonderful Pediatrics Team!

Gujarat, India

Caitlin Stigmeier

Where can you start with India? The rickshaws, the traffic, the masses of people, marketplaces, people on people in buildings on buildings on buildings, rising up and reaching out, tentacles of people everywhere. Smells- sweet, putrid, hot, rotting, incense-burning, sugar-cane juice, chai-tea, feces and piss and body odor, sweat, and salt.

Then the rural area of Mota Fofalia, Gujarat, India, where I spent a month in a hospital, is serene, quiet, set among banana fields and dusty roads. Monkeys run through the courtyard daily; cows wander the streets in herds. Women in saris, robed in gold, red, purple, blue, greens. Gold jewelry adorns their ears, all the way up the lobes on both sides, rings, bracelets, delicate nose rings in even girls as young as five. The children playful and curious, wondering what a white person was (doing in their town).

For the month, I worked as the hospital’s pediatrician, managing the newborn nursery and outpatient clinic, the pediatric malnutrition center, and pediatric ED and inpatient cases. I also assisted with deliveries, surgeries, and some adult cases (DKA management, burns). Field work included starting a pilot research project on migrant communities in the area- taking anthropometric measures and information on their migration patterns, access to healthcare, and family size and income in order to determine their medical needs and barriers to healthcare. I also worked with the hospitals field manager to do home follow-up visits to low birth-weight infants and children.

There were cases of common colds and allergies, and cases more devastating. A one-year old with more than 50% TBSA burns, his beautiful brown skin falling off of him like tissue paper. A 7 year old with bacterial meningitis; a 1.7 kg newborn with RDS, minimal oxygen and no other ventilator support available. A 25 year old with DKA received only one pint of fluid in her first 24 hours of hospitalization. Died in front of our eyes, revived with epinephrine and CPR; she then seized and arrested again. A day later, she was sitting up in bed, albeit vomiting but alive.

India was miraculous and joyful; it was heartbreaking and tragic. Its people are humble, the poorest of the poor giving everything they have- the migrant workers offering watermelons and chai after their health checks. It completely captivated my soul, enriched my life as a person and as a physician, forced creativity into the art of medicine, and left me even more grateful for all that we have to cure children in our part of the world.

“We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way.” –Bishop Oscar Romero

Caitlin test-driving a camel.
Chief Conference
Our 2015-2016 chiefs had the opportunity to attend the annual ACGME Pediatric Chief Residents Conference in Philadelphia in March. Vanessa tells the Crier, “It was great! We learned a lot about ourselves and each other and also traded ideas with the other chiefs. It was a great experience and I would recommend every chief to go to it!”

The 55 Plus Trust Factor
A not-so-anonymous source (from Fulton), let the Crier know that the April/May 2015 issue of CNY’s 55 Plus Magazine had an article featuring our very own Dr. Stuart Trust. If you missed it, the entire magazine is available online (The Trust Factor is on page 16).
http://issuu.com/55plus-cny/docs/cny55plus-no56/16

Welcome, Connor!
Congratulations to Dr. Becky Barnett (NICU faculty) on the birth of baby boy Connor James Barnett. Connor arrived on 4/10 at 7 lb. Mom is doing great and tells the Crier, “I’m so in love with our little guy!” Connor is apparently a West Virginia fan. We wish Becky and her family the very best!

Child Life Month in Pix
Last month we reported on Child Life Month (March) which was another huge success. But nothing describes an event better than pictures. Thanks to Maggie Zick for sharing some of the highlights!

John Francis O’Malley
Last month we promised a picture of Jenica’s beautiful baby boy born on 3/34. We introduce John Francis O’Malley.

Happily Ever After
Congratulations to Nandita Singh (Class of 2014) and Ammar Alamarie who got married on April 10th followed by a reception on 4/11 at the Woodbury Country Club on Long Island. Several of her classmates were able to attend (so many, in fact, that there was no room for the groom in the picture).

Happy Anniversary
The Crier has been trying to get a picture of Prateek Wali and his wife ever since they got married in May, 2014. Since the Spring issue of the Upstate Medical Alumni Journal included the following, we figured it was a great opportunity to wish Prateek and Michaela a happy first anniversary.

Where Are They Now?
The Crier caught up with former resident Anthony Chiodi (Class of 2002) who shares the following:
“After graduating the residency program in 2002 I started at Child Health Associates in Oneida. The following year, fellow alumnus, Jan Bach, joined us to make 4 docs in our practice. Jaimie started med school and we got married after completing her first year in 2013. After completing her second year and passing the USMLE Step 1, we decided to start a family. For various reasons Jaimie felt that if we could have children she would like to stay home and raise them. After she had Elena she withdrew from Upstate. Elena was eventually joined by a brother Ben, then two sisters, Anna and Noelle.
As anyone with children we have a busy life. They enjoy school and love stomping around the backyard picking up toads, generally getting muddy. Being a father has taught me more about children than I ever hoped to learn from med school or residency. I have always found the staff and doctors at Golisano Children's Hospital and Crouse NICU very helpful and have had to avail myself of their services a few times. Shortly after Golisano's opened my eldest developed Kawasaki's Syndrome and was admitted for treatment. Dr. Nader Atallah has carefully followed her while Dr. Matt Egan has been wonderful while following my youngest's VSD. Well, I hope everyone there is well. It is always great to know that everyone in Syracuse will try to help us community docs as much as they can. - Anthony

P.S. In the photo, from left to right, it goes: yours truly, Anna, Noelle, Jaimie, Ben and Elena.”

May Events:
May 30 – Syracuse Lip Sync Contest to Benefit the GCH Spina Bifida Clinic
http://www.upstate.edu/gch/education/images/criernay2.pdf

MAY BIRTHDAYS
5/3 Vanessa Orrego
5/7 Sue Stred, Khalia Grant
5/8 Asalim Thabet
5/9 Ran Anbar
5/10 Tim Hatch, Karen White
5/11 Chris Lopez,
5/12 Sherri Clarry,
5/14 Zafer Soultan,
5/15 Dave Sadowitz
5/18 Debby Carlson
5/20 Lou Pellegrino
5/23 Ellen Bifano
5/26 Yorgo Zahlanie