Pediatrics Welcomes Dr. Larry Shoemaker

Editor’s Note: We are pleased to have our new nephrologist introduce himself to you:

I am new to central New York, having recently arrived from Louisville, Kentucky, where I have resided for the last 15 years – the longest time I have stayed put at any one location. I am a dual citizen of the US and France, and came to and stayed in the US since school age; before I lived mostly in Morocco (Casablanca), Spain, and France. Most folks who move to and fro a lot during their early years identify themselves as being from the location where they graduate from high school – that would be Huntsville, Alabama.

My interests in school gravitated to math and chemistry early on, and pursuing a career in medicine was a difficult decision. At Vanderbilt I finally felt happy about this decision after rotating in pediatrics. Later, these interests led me to pursue a career that I am excited about – pediatrics nephrology! I still like to dabble in math as a hobby.

My wife, Elizabeth, and my children, Greg and Diana, will move up here later this summer - after Greg graduates high school. Greg recently became an Eagle Scout, and will start Colgate this Fall. Diana is not just the princess of our house, she is jousting for “empress” status. On my “To Do” list is... to find a school for this 8-year-old Diva. The other big item... to look for a house.

My hobbies include water skiing in the summer (does it ever get hot here?), and ice hockey (amateur at that!). I love Alabama football, and my basketball allegiance is on the fence post between Louisville and Syracuse. Not a fan of UK (Kentucky). In NHL, I have no favorite, but I like the Flyers, Blackhawks, and Canucks. Baseball, well, will the Cubs ever make it to the series? I am excited to join Drs. Schurman and Welch with Upstate pediatric nephrology!

Good as Gold

Last month we mentioned that our very own Dr. Ann Botash was the recipient of one of the Upstate Gold Standard Awards. She was honored at the 5th Annual “Celebration of the Faculty” ceremony on March 14th where Dr. Welch presented her with her award. Dr. Botash’s entire family was able to be there to watch her accept this special honor. The Crier has also learned who the key instigator was of Dr. Botash’s nomination. Thanks to Dr. Beth Nelsen and her team of highly qualified and dedicated supporters to submit the winning package on Dr. Botash’s behalf.

New York, New York

First year resident, Aamer Imdad won the opportunity to give an oral presentation at the New York Academy of Medicine on March 13th. Aamer tells the Crier, “This was a great opportunity to present my work and polish my presentation skills. The presentation went well and the head of Pediatrics section of NYAM came and appreciated it in person. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to present my study at this occasion.” Congratulations, Aamer.

The Festschrift

On March 24 the Departments of Pediatrics at SUNY Upstate Medical University and the University of Rochester jointly sponsored a “Festschrift” in honor of Dr. Gregory Liptak who passed away on March 4, 2012. Webster’s defines Festschrift as “a volume of writings by different authors presented as a tribute or memorial, esp. to a scholar”. In that spirit, Drs. Henry Roane, Susan Hyman, Laura Lee McIntyre, and Gordon Worley presented talks related to topics that were near and dear to Dr. Liptak’s heart, relating to subjects that he spent years researching and treating children and families for. Dr. Liptak’s three sons and his wife, Penney, all spoke and gave us insight into his life as a husband and father. All who attended felt that it was a fitting tribute to a man who defined the term “still waters run deep”. We all learned things about Dr. Liptak that made us wish we had known him better. He will truly be missed by many.

Editor’s Note: Special kudos to Cherlynn Clarry for all her work in making this event possible and for sharing this follow-up article with us.

El Salvador

Maureen Butler

For several years, I have listened to Dr. Joe Domachowske’s stories of life in the tiny village of Rancho Grande, El Salvador. Each year, Joe has travelled there with a group of teen agers and adults affiliated with Young Life for a week of hard work during the February school break. Last September, I applied and was accepted to be part of the 2012 team.

We left Syracuse on February 16 early in the morning and arrived in San Salvador mid afternoon. As I exited the airport terminal, a “wall” of hot, hot air surrounded me. We boarded school busses...
for the trip to the village; we soon left the highway and bounced along roads that got smaller and unpaved. The heat was complimented by the layer of dust that flew in the open bus windows. Those two elements, heat and dust, became the weather constants for the week.

As we entered the village of Rancho Grande, the experienced volunteers began cheering as they recognized the buildings and then people of the village. We were met by a large group of smiling children and adults who sang to welcome us. They had also decorated with bright crepe paper the area where we would eat our meals.

We settled into our sleeping accommodations and all the novices like me were given a tour of the well that provided clean water for us to drink (an earlier project of this group) as well as the basic bucket showers and outdoor “facilities”. After a delicious dinner, we learned about the projects organized for the week and returned to our sleeping areas. My lessons from the first night included: 1) remembering to leave my shoes and headlamp next to my sleeping bag for night time trips to the outhouse and 2) roosters do NOT crow just in the morning- they crow all night, along with the nearby snorting pigs and barking dogs.

For the next 5 days, we were up early in the morning and the teens and adults worked on several projects. The chapel, built with the Young Life group’s assistance last year, was painted lemon yellow and lime green, inside and out. Painting cinder blocks isn’t easy but well worth the effort. Before we left, the travelling priest came to celebrate mass in the newly decorated building.

Irrigation systems are important for growing vegetables and other crops in the dry season. This year, we were able to assist in providing two kinds of systems. The large project will provide water to a field to grow corn, sugar cane, and peppers. The teens and adults mixed cement and pushed it in wheel barrows over uneven ground and dug lots of post holes for the fence required to protect the irrigation system from the Brahma cattle who wander around the village. Smaller, back yard drip irrigation systems were installed in 8 villager’s homes. These simple systems provide water through drip tapes from a 5 gallon bucket suspended over tree limbs.

The school received some computers and a portion of the building was divided into a room for the computers. This required a cooperative effort by the teens to move cinder blocks and buckets of cement up and into the room for the walls.

In addition to these activities, Joe and a group of the teens ran a clinic to see all the villagers. Through generous contributions, all the families received vitamins and saw a dentist who did oral exams and provided tooth brushes and tooth paste. Joe also treated villagers with both acute and chronic medical conditions, a great challenge in an area with so little resources.

Our group also required some of Dr. Joe’s attention. Two of us experienced scorpion stings. Fortunately, the El Salvador variety is not the kind that causes serious illness. But I can tell you from personal experience that they do cause serious pain!

The Rancho Grande community and Young Life have a strong collaborative relationship. Each year, Young Life staff travel to the village in June to review the work done in February of that year and to ask the villagers what they would like to have help with in the following year.

Much thought is given to the need for sustainability and for the village community to be responsible for long term ownership of the projects. For instance, a bicycle repair program was initiated by providing replacement parts for the bicycles that many depend upon for transportation. Riding them on bumpy dirt roads creates the need for lots of repairs. Two of the men in the village learned the necessary skills to repair bicycles and during our visit this year, they announced their new business to the village. The program will now be self sustaining as they are paid to do the repairs by the bicycle owners.

For me, the best part of the trip was spending time with the families, especially the children. As our pictures show, they are friendly, beautiful kids. The children and their families share common concerns and goals with all of us- to raise their children with adequate food and shelter and to live in peace. For me, this is the central message and memory.

The Crier recently learned that our former resident (and chief resident) Farrukh Anwer has accepted a position as Medical Director at Enable, replacing Carl Crosley who recently retired. Congratulations, Farrukh. See full article online.

**Peds After Hours**

The area’s first pediatric urgent-care center is now open at Upstate University Hospital at Community General. The center, called The Upstate Golisano After Hours Care, is dedicated to caring for children, from newborns to those 21 years of age suffering from minor injuries or illnesses that do not require a visit to the emergency room. See full story online at: http://www.upstate.edu/news/article.php?title=4018

**Match Day**

waits Friday, March 16th this year. Meet the intern class of 2015:

- Ibraheem Al Shareef - Beirut Arab Univ/Amer Univ of Beirut
- Emad Awa – University of Aleppo
- Jenica Harmon - UNECOM
- Steve Hicks – SUNY Upstate
- Evelyne Khoriati – Amer Univ of Beirut
- Joshua McBride – Univ of Pittsburgh
- Vanessa Orrego – St. George's University
- Angela Pericozzi – SUNY Upstate
- Kristin Riley – Touro Univ California
- Jeremy Steele – Ross University
- Caitlin Stiglmeyer – St. George’s Univ
- Lindsay Tamborelle – SUNY Upstate
- Sara Tarolli – SUNY Buffalo.

**Pediatric Star-of-the-Month**

By Lisa Blystone

The Pediatric Star-of-the-Month is Wendy Holz for helping out with EPIC in the nephrology clinic. Wendy really saved the day and her knowledge was greatly appreciated. Wendy - please visit Lisa Blystone in 5803 to pick out your Stars prize.

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 4/7 Lina Hajar
- 4/11 Carrie Brindisi Greene
- 4/19 Katie Fry
- 4/20 Mide Ajagbe
- 4/21 Carol Plumbley