Meet Our New Faculty!
We are excited to be able to introduce three new faculty members this month.

Welcome Andreas Meier
The Department of Pediatrics warmly welcomes our new Chief of Pediatric Surgery, Dr. Andreas Meier. Dr. Meier shared the following with the Crier:
I am joining Upstate and Golisano Children’s Hospital trying to fill Dr Ratner’s shoes which will be challenging to do, but I will work hard on it!
After medical school and some surgical training in Germany, oncology research and General Surgery Residency at Stanford, Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at Emory and 6 years as Pediatric Surgery Attending at PennState University I spent the last 4 years as the Division Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Southern Illinois University in Springfield, IL. This position allowed me to further my interest in surgical education and to complete a Masters program in Human Resource Education.
I have been married 20 years to my wife Maggie and we have a 17-year old son and a 12-year old daughter. When I am not working in the hospital I enjoy playing golf and going to the movies with my family. Other interests include western philosophy, politics, computer technology and physics (pretty nerdy, I guess!)
Even though we have just moved to the area we have already experienced how welcoming the Syracuse community is and I am looking forward to being part of the Upstate family.

Welcome, Gary Amundson
We also warmly welcome Gary Amundson, MD as our new chief of pediatric radiology. Gary did his internship in pediatrics and residency in radiology at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, and split his pediatric radiology fellowship between UCLA and Case Western. He has worked at a number of children's hospitals, and has been the director of the radiology residency at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Most recently, Gary has been living in Denver, CO while doing pediatric radiology locums in several different children's hospitals including LeBonheur and Kosair. Dr. Amundson tells the Crier, “I came to Syracuse because of the peds radiology need, a unique opportunity that fit my experience and skills set; as well as getting back to an academic/teaching environment which I love. In my spare time I play cards, a little tournament poker and lots of bridge. I also like to hang out in good restaurants, and may get back to playing a little golf.” Again, we welcome Dr. Amundson and many of us have already enjoyed working with him.

Welcome again, Manika Survadevara
Dr. Suryadevara is a very familiar face to us but as of July 1st, she has taken on the double title of Hospitalist and Infectious Diseases attending. Manika shares the following:
Hello everyone! Having been in the department for the past 7 years, it’s a little difficult for me to introduce myself – I was born and raised in Albany, New York. I moved to Syracuse for medical school, where I met and married my husband. I first joined the Upstate pediatric department as a resident and stayed to complete a chief year. After residency, my husband, son, and I moved to Seattle for his ENT fellowship – a place I highly recommend visiting!! While enjoying my one-year “vacation” on the west coast, I practiced general pediatrics part-time, enjoyed spending time with my son, and did a bit of travelling. When the year was completed, we returned back to Syracuse so I could start my fellowship in infectious diseases, which turned out to be my favorite three years of training!
While not at work, my hobbies and interests circle around my 2 children: Nikhil (6) and Nithya (3). They are fun, entertaining, and always keeping me on my toes! We like to go hiking, skiing, and play sports! The more time we spend outside, the happier we are!
I am very excited to now be joining the Infectious Disease and Inpatient divisions of the faculty! I look forward to working with all of you!!

Academy Ann
Congratulations to Ann Botash who was selected to be an inaugural member of the newly formed Academy of Upstate Educators and will be formally recognized as members of the Academy at the Fall Faculty Convocation. The Academy was formed to serve two main purposes: (1) to recognize a group of highly innovative and excellent educators (2) to provide a resource to colleagues for education-related issues. We are very proud of Dr. Botash and glad to have Pediatrics so well represented.

Katie in Kenya
As many of you know, Katie spent her call free month in Kenya working at the Obama Children’s Hospital. Here is a link to the Upstate “With Distinction” Blog that featured Katie and her fiancé and their work there in Kenya. Katie sent us an initial report just after arriving (see attached pdf).
Note that even in Kenya, Katie remembers to wear her Update ID badge.

Common Sense in Book Form
Congratulations to our very own Dr. Lou Pellegrino whose new book was recently published by Paul H Brookes Pub Co and can be purchased at Amazon.com. The
Crier got an exclusive review of the book from an unnamed spouse of Dr. Pellegrino:

Congratulations to Lou Pellegrino on the release of his new book *The Common Sense Guide to Your Child’s Special Needs: When to Worry, When to Wait, What to do*. Lou has been working on this book for the past year. He was approached by the publisher initially to revise a different book but ultimately decided to change the content and approach resulting in a new book. He wanted to reach parents at a basic level and empower them to trust their instincts and advocate for their children. The book is divided into sections. Section one is devoted to common areas of concern (speech, language, communication skills, motor skills and coordination, activities of daily living, social skills, behavior and learning skills). This section includes discussions about topics such as ADHD, developmental language disorders, cerebral palsy, developmental coordination disorder, autism spectrum disorders, social cognitive disability, learning disability and intellectual disability. Section two covers topics of general concerned for children with developmental disabilities. These include hearing, vision, sensory processing, medication interventions, and unique concerns of Down syndrome, spina bifida, and cerebral palsy. The last chapter discusses causes of developmental disabilities.

The book has a gardening theme. It has nice illustrations, action plans, and sidebars including seeds of wisdom, jargon busters and FYIs. It is very family friendly and easy to read. I think it is a great book! The target audience is parents who are concerned about their child’s development as well as other health professionals, and early educators (preschool, elementary ed). However, medical students and pediatric residents could also learn from it (and will be quizzed when they rotate with us).

Lou has previously authored “Caring for Children with Cerebral Palsy: A Team Based Approach” and was an editor for a textbook in child development “Children with Disabilities”. He loves to write, play the guitar, read, play with the kids and tend the garden! For those of you who have looked at the introduction and postscript, I should mention that our garden is growing well and Cookie is thriving.

**Teal There’s a Cure**

On July 4th a team of UPAC runners and walkers participated in the 4th annual “Teal There’s a Cure” run that was founded by Maureen O’Hara after she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Sadly, Maureen lost her own battle a week after the run. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and loved ones. (see her beautiful obituary online). But thanks to her vision, and the many friends and family who have taken part in the run, they have raised a significant amount of awareness, and money for research to one day find a cure. Thank you, Maureen.

**Taken For Granted Again**

Congratulations to Aamer Imdad who informed the Crier that the AAP has approved a grant of $2000 for his project with Dr. Shaw on vaccination coverage. The Academy also approved a travel grant of $1000 for him to present the study at the annual meeting.

**Classic Intern Move**

Dr. Scafer shared the following classic intern move that new intern, Angela Pericozzi mastered in her first week of training - phone in each ear, pager ringing too. Courtesy of the red team.

**NASCAR Visits the GCH**

The Upstate Online reported that NASCAR driver Jeff Burton made a pit stop to sign autographs for his youngest fans at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital July 12. As seen in the picture, 7-year-old Alex was thrilled to meet Jeff, who spent several hours making Pinewood derby-type cars with patients and family members. We appreciate Jeff slowing down long enough to help speed up the recovery of some of our kids!

**Welcome Romie Portnoy**

Congratulations to Sharon Somekh on the birth of baby girl Romie Portnoy on 7/3.

**SUNY Filipino Reunion**

Carol Plumley went to Texas from June 1-3 to be a part of the Filipino reunion of some former Upstate residents and staff (no, Carol is not Filipino). Former residents Bo Concepcion, Nonette Asuncion Gimotea and Incos Torredo invited her to join them for what ended up being a delightful time. See if you can spot Carol in the picture below.

**The Desi Dinner**

On June 2nd Dr. Beg and his wife invited all of the India/Pakastani residents and their spouses over for some good “just-like-home” cooking. Guests included Marium Gill, Rajoo Thapa, Archie Ramaswami, Kunal Sawale (and his parents) and Aamer Indad. Aamer shared the following report: “This is to share that Dr Beg arranged a gathering of his friends and family at his beautiful house and invited all the residents from Pakistan/India origin. It was also attended by Dr Karjoo along with his family. Dr Beg's wife prepared a delicious menu of eastern desi food and made all the guests her huge fans.”

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

By Lisa Blystone

The star of the month is Ashley Meyer for coming in on her weekend off, without being asked, to help the new interns and new seniors. She is a super star. Ashley, please contact Lisa Blystone at 464-7600, or stop by UH 5803 to pick out your Stars prize.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

8/2 Archie Ramaswami
8/3 Astha Khanna
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
8/25 Bob Cavanaugh
8/27 Scott Vonnetzana
8/30 Allie Persaud
8/30 Kristi Colucci
8/31 Melissa McCollum

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