The Grand Opening, Continues

The PICU at GCH-A View from the Top
Kara Judd-Litera, CCLS, CEIM
PICU Child Life Specialist

Parents who have a child needing intensive care have many hurdles to overcome. Fear and uncertainty come along with many diagnoses. An interruption of the family’s routine, lost time at work, arranging to care for other children at home, lack of sleep and appetite can all take their toll. The PICU medical staff has always been able to help these families with their expertise and caring. The highly skilled attending physicians and nursing staff have brought comfort to the families they serve for decades. And now, in our new space at the top of the Treehouse, our view both outside and inside has changed, but our high standard of care remains.

The PICU serves critically ill and injured children from 18 counties. The PICU team includes five Attending Physicians, a skilled nursing staff, and the Peds SWAT nursing team. The PICU also has a Certified Child Life Specialist assigned to the unit to help the children and families cope with the stress of such serious illnesses & injuries.

While our former space was very small, and offered no privacy for families, our new space offers 15 private rooms, with bedside sleeping for a parent. The decentralized nursing stations allow the staff to utilize a workstation right outside of their patient’s room. Amenities for the patient & families include a large flat screen TV, soon to be added PlayStation 3 game systems, in-room shower & bathroom in some of the rooms, and a desk space. Wireless internet access is also available.

One of the most utilized new spaces is the Family Accommodations Room, which has a laundry room and 3 small bedrooms that families can request to sleep in. The space also contains a coffee station, refrigerator, and cupboard space for family use. Across the hall, a family waiting room offers 2 computers with Internet access, vending, and another kitchenette.

The new space has affected the families in profound ways. One mother, as we moved her fragile child from the “old” unit to the new, began to cry. I offered her words of comfort, concerned she was feeling stressed by the move. “No”, she said, “I knew you were all doing everything you can, and that she was getting wonderful care, but I never knew that a place I hate to have to be in could be so beautiful.”

The Old 4C

Just in case anyone is wondering what happened to the old 4C, now that the PICU has moved into the GCH, we found it. It is now located on the 5th Floor among the academic offices. Note that at this time, it is not accepting new patients.

Pediatrics Welcomes Dr. Henry Roane

We are pleased to welcome Henry S. Roane, Ph.D., BCBA-D. to Upstate as an Associate Professor in Pediatrics and Psychiatry. Dr. Roane received his Ph.D. in 2000 from Louisiana State University in Psychology with an emphasis on the assessment and treatment of behavior disorders in individuals with developmental disabilities. He completed a pre-doctoral internship in pediatrics and psychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Here at Upstate, in addition to his dual appointment in Pediatrics and Psychiatry, he is the Director of the Family Behavior Analysis Clinic, and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. He is a former Associate Editor for the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis (JABA), is currently an Associate Editor for Behavior Analysis in Practice, is on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of School Psychology, Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, and JABA, and is on the Board of Directors for the Behavior Analysis Certification Board and the Society for the Experimental Analysis of Behavior. Dr. Roane has co-authored over 50 papers on the assessment and treatment of behavior disorders and currently is the lead investigator on a grant funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

On a personal note, Dr. Roane tells the Crier, “I am living with my in laws in Camillus while my wife and I are waiting on construction of our green home. I have an 11 year old daughter and 16 month old twin girls. We enjoy hiking, going to our camp in Southern Ontario, and are looking forward to enjoying the many opportunities the northeast provides for outdoor fun.”

The Immunization Tsar

Congratulations to our very own Joe Domachowske for his recent appointment to the New York State Immunization Advisory Council. Joe was personally selected and appointed by New York State Senator Majority Leader, Pedro Espada. Stay tuned for future updates on what Joe’s role will be on this important statewide committee.

She Means Business

Gloria Kennedy

Sue Shaw, RN, MS, PNP, ANP is a nurse practitioner in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Clinical Coordinator of the KNOT Clinic for long term childhood cancer survivors, a clinic she began in 1992. Sue has authored numerous articles and book chapters on survivorship issues. She is nationally recognized as a leader in this field. Recently Sue was recognized locally, not only for her work with Pediatric Oncology survivors, but also for her volunteer efforts with her church, Francis House and the Refugee clinic. Nominated by one of her patients, her application was reviewed by a select committee from the American Red Cross and on October, 29th Sue was honored with the "Women Who Mean
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Hypnosis. He will take office of this national clinical society in 2011. Dr. Anbar told the Crier that, "the ASCH has 2000 members. As President-Elect I will be organizing the 2011 annual meeting. As President, my goal is to raise funds to help support clinical hypnosis research on a national level. For more information about ASCH you can check: www.asch.net." Congratulations, Dr. Anbar…er… perhaps that should be President Anbar!

Christmas Giving Project

Editor’s Note: It has been a tradition of the department to take on a needy family or group during the holidays to collectively help out in a special way, Here is this year’s special opportunity for you to take part in: Cher Lynn Clarry

As you may know, H.W. Smith School in the Syracuse City School district has a large population of foreign/refugee children. I have gotten a Wish List from Mary Jo Domachowske who works at the school. I would like to take on H.W. Smith School as our annual departmental Christmas Project. If everybody chips in a little, we can help fulfill some needs for these kids. As always, cash donations are also welcome. I would like to receive these items by December 18, 2009.

Wish List: Backpacks, Socks, Sweat pants, Sweat shirts, Sneakers, Underwear, Coats (new or gently used), Shampooos, Lotions, Soaps, Deodorant, Towels (small bath, hand or wash clothes), Hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, etc. Books are also always needed

Sizes range from 5 to 14 and items are for both male and female students, grades K-8.

As always, thanks in advance for your generous support and help with this annual project. If you have any questions, let me know. Sherri

Meal with a Mission

On Friday, December 4th there will be a special Ethnic Feast open to all from 6 to 9 PM on the 5th Floor at UPAC to help raise money for Carol Christiansen and Lauri Rupracht’s medical mission trip to Ghana, Africa in March, 2010. For only $15.00 per person (or $10.00 if you are bringing a dish to pass), you can sample a wide variety of tantalizing dishes from around the world made by many of our own pediatric residents and other staff as well as food from area ethnic restaurants (children under 12 are only $5.00). There will also be live entertainment, a slide show and raffles. It is sure to be a great time for all!

Please RSVP by December 2nd at the latest (sorry for the short notice) if you plan on attending (christic@upstate.edu).

GCH’s Best Dressed Babies

The Crier recently learned about a wonderful program that has been going on, first on 4A, and now continues in the new Children’s Hospital. Some of the nurses have been collecting baby clothes and making them available to babies who are here in the hospital. Curious to learn more about this entirely voluntary program, the Crier asked Chris Lopez for more details. Here is the inside scoop:

“Actually, the mastermind behind this project is Abbie Sousie. Abbie Sousie is an LPN who has worked on pediatrics forever. Everyone who knows Abbie knows that babies are her favorite patients (especially ones who don't want to eat) and we all know "don't mess with my baby if you know what's good for you!!"

Over the years, Abbie has organized a collection of baby clothes for our patients to wear while they are here. (The hospital pajamas and white t-shirts just don't fit, and they're very unファッションable). Abbie personally sees that these clothes are washed (before the move to GCH, she took the clothes home to wash), sorted, and distributed appropriately. She is always willing to accept donations, so if you have any baby clothes that you're not using anymore, please bring them to her on 12E (the baby side). Even though she pretends to be crabby, we all know she's not! Thank you Abbie!”

"Yes, we all want to thank Abbie for implementing this wonderful project. Please feel free to bring your unused baby items in, so you can be a part of it, too.

Ran For President

He never actually ran. But our very own Ran Anbar was chosen as the President-elect of the American Society of Clinical

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Child Life Santa article

Colleen Baish (see online)

Future Pediatricians

Cara and Cary Qualia had a baby girl, Sara Jane, on Nov 19th.

Neda Shariff had a baby boy, Shaheen, on Oct 15.

Congratulations to all our newest moms and dads.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Gloria Kennedy
12/3 Pasaka Griciune
12/4 Paul Fuller
12/7 Sean Button
12/14 Vicki Meguid
12/16 Kathie Contello, Christie Hall
12/23 Robert Lebel
12/26 Tom Welch
12/29 Mandy Trudell