Welcome (Back) Linda McAleer

As most of you know, Linda McAleer has accepted the position of Director of Pediatric Nursing Services. We warmly welcome her back to our department:

The Crier’s renowned Patty asked me to tell my story prior to returning to Pediatrics. My Nursing career began at St Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing; suffice it to say… a very long time ago. I quickly found my passion in Pediatric Nursing.

Nursing has provided me a multitude of opportunities to work with great professionals, families and children. Many and varied clinical experiences; acute care, Community Health Nursing, clinical education, and Primary Care Pediatrics have enhanced my ability to see the “big picture potential and impact” on whatever issues I encounter. My sincere gratitude to Paul Fuller MD, who back in 1996 strongly encouraged me to apply for the Nurse Manager position in the old Peds Clinic. Once I got a taste of leadership and management, I had a new passion!

Four years ago when I was asked to join the inpatient Nursing Leadership Team with clinical oversight for Trauma, Surgery, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Services I accepted the challenge. The skills and relationships I developed in the adult inpatient world have resulted in professional growth beyond my expectations. Fast forward to Leanna Severance retiring early and an unexpected opportunity for me to combine my passion for Pediatrics and Nursing Leadership into one role. Add the new Golisano Children’s Hospital, the awesome people who work in Pediatrics and a plethora of Pediatric initiatives… WOW! I am truly blessed to be joining your Team again as the Nursing Director for Pediatric Services.

When asked recently if being selected for this job was my greatest accomplishment, I responded “No.” While it is an accomplishment I am quite proud of, raising four children and now witnessing their integrity, character and contributions to their communities is overwhelmingly my best story. They keep me grounded! Attempting to balance family, work, life and learning is an ongoing journey for me. I enjoy being outside walking, running or snow shoeing. Vacations are fuel for my soul and the absolute best when spent with my family on a beach!

I’ve had the pleasure of working with many of you. I look forward to meeting those I don’t know, learning from you all and sharing our vision and passion for a bright future at Golisano Children’s Hospital. Respectfully, Linda

Familiar Faces

Mirza Beg went to the annual NASPGHAN (North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition) conference in New Orleans, LA, back in October and saw several of our former residents including Imad Absah (2009), Rima Fawaz (2000) and David Kawatu (1996) who all send their greetings to the department (and, yes, this is a totally “doctored” picture).

In the News


Nisrine recommends that anyone wanting autographs should talk to her agent.

Congratulations, Nisrine! Great job!

More Familiar Faces

We recently got the following note from former resident, Rosanne Salonia. Rosanne is currently a post-doctoral scholar and attending at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh doing research in Traumatic brain injury. She writes, “Things are still crazy here as usual. Bret just started his first year of a 3 year plastic surgery fellowship and I am working here as a junior attending in the PICU and doing a research fellowship. We have 3 little girls (5y, 3y and 1yr and 3 dogs) that all keep us on our toes. Here's a family pic from our vacation at the Outer Banks this year - Bret and I, our oldest daughter, Alexandra, middle daughter: Abigail on my lap and the baby, Julianna. Also our 3 dogs: Toby (silver one), Leo (black one) and Bailey (smallest one). “

Nisrine El Chami

Drs. Greg Liptak and Nienke Dosa whose article on Myelomeningocele made the cover of the November issue of Pediatrics in Review. See online for link: Pediatrics in Review 2010 31: 443-450.
Bennett in Motherhood
Our Peds ID fellow, Nick Bennett was recently quoted on the Motherhood website on vaccinations. See online for a link (note that the information starts from the bottom of the page):
http://www.themotherhood.com/circle/show/id/62098

Summit Speakers
Meanwhile, two of our Peds ID faculty, Joe Domachowske, and Jana Shaw, were invited speakers at the "Vaccine Summit" held on Nov 5-7 in New Paltz, NY. This is an annual event of the District II AAP and is supported by the NYS Department of Health. It is a program that draws pediatricians from all over the state. Dr. Domachowske spoke on vaccine safety and Dr. Shaw spoke on dealing with vaccine refusal.

Vatinee in China
After taking her Boards (perhaps because of taking her Boards), former resident Vatinee Thassanapaff and her husband were recently spotted at the Great Wall of China.

Dinner at Christy’s
The residents have been taking the applicants out to dinner the night before their interview. Some of the residents have actually brought them over to their house for a home cooked (or home-catered) meal. Apparently word got out that Christy Rivers was hosting the dinner on November 4th. Word did not, however, get out to Christy that this many people would be showing up. It was obviously a fun evening for everyone, and a wonderful opportunity for the applicants to meet all of the residents who came to spend time with them.

Vatinee in China
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December Dates to Remember:
12/8 – The Upstate Holiday Happening
12/13 – Pediatric Department Party
12/17 – The Housestaff Holiday Party

Future Neonatologist
Congratulations to Boura’a and Heba Bou Aram on the birth of Alia Bou Aram on 11/18, at 8 lbs; 6 oz. Mom, dad, big brother Omar, and Alia are all doing fine!

Vatinee in China
After taking her Boards, former resident Vatinee Thassanapaff and her husband were recently spotted at the Great Wall of China.

New Future Faculty
Pediatrics welcomes the newest member of our department, Parker Anthony Sacks, born on 11/2/10. Jen tells the Crier that “Parker was born 11/2/10 and was 8lb 9oz. Owen is thrilled to be a big brother (most of the time) and has been a wonderful helper!” Congratulations, Jen!

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month
By Lisa Blystone
Our Pediatric Star of the Month is Akaber ElKhamra for the extra effort she showed by volunteering to put together a Friday Noon Conference at the very last minute when a resident called in sick (with another conference she already volunteered for just two weeks later).. She is a true Star and a example for all of us to emulate. Akaber - contact Patty Mondore or Lisa Blystone to pick out your extra-special prize from the Stars treasure chest.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
12/1 Gloria Kennedy
12/3 Pasaka Griciene
12/12 Joe Gianfagna
12/14 Vicki Meguid
12/16 Kathie Contello, Christie Hall
12/23 Robert Lebel
12/26 Tom Welch, Allison Martin
12/29 Mandy Trudell
New Faculty
Tamer Ahmed, M.D. – Pediatric Surgery
Rahila Bilal, M.D. – Peds Anesthesiology
Yaman Eksioglu – Peds Neurology
Robyn Inglehart, M.D. – Peds Anesthesiology
Kim Mendelson, M.D. – Peds Surgery
Venkata Sampathi, M.D. – Peds Anesthesiology

Derek Gorski – new faculty

Shinpei – Doctors without Borders

Jay – WWP

JoANN BUNGY JUMPING?

Aida Khanum
Good morning Patty,
I hope that you are doing well. I am in Houston, working for an FQHC, and I have 2 little boys (3 years and 19 months). I often visit the crier page to see what is new with the Syracuse team.
Aida Khanum

New Faculty – Dr. Yaman Eksioglu

New Pediatric Anesthesia Team

I really have to thank the Chair of Anesthesiology, Nancy Nussmier, for her amazing support of pediatric anesthesia. In addition to the great team already in place, Nancy has recruited these new folks who have recently joined us. Some were at yesterday's faculty welcome reception:

Dr. Robyn Iglehart is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She completed her anesthesia residency at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, a teaching hospital of Tufts University School of Medicine. And later the pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at the Children's National Medical Center. She comes to Golisano Children's Hospital from the University of Maryland Medical Center where she was an attending anesthesiologist caring for both adults and children.

Dr Venkata Sampathi attended Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada, India. He then completed his anesthesia residency and board certification in Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, India in 2003. After residency he worked as an anesthesiologist and critical care physician in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, University of West Indies, Barbados until 2008. In 2008 he moved to USA to do Solid organ transplant anesthesiology fellowship in Jackson Memorial hospital, University of Miami. (2008-2009). After, he finished his Pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at Women and Children Hospital of Buffalo at University of Buffalo 2009-2010. He is currently employed at Upstate University Hospital, Syracuse, NY as a pediatric anesthesiologist.

Research interests are focused on pediatric induction techniques and airway management.

Rahila Bilal graduated from F J Medical College. She did her internship in Surgery at North Shore University Hospital at Manhasset, NY. She completed her Anesthesiology residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital / University of Miami in FL. After her residency, she did her Pediatric Anesthesiology fellowship at Riley Children's hospital/ Indiana University in Indianapolis, IN. She worked for six years in Maine. She joined the SUNY upstate in July 2010.