Happy New Year! This first issue of 2011 is dedicated to some of the new events relating to our department.

New NACHRI Winners
The Upstate GCH had the honor of having two of photos (out of hundreds submitted) that were selected for the national NACHRI exhibit, one in the top 50 and one in the top 10. The people pictured in the "top ten" photo are our very own Priyaka Kaul MD and her patient, Kheyra Adams, 5. (Kheyra is a Somali refugee.)

The other photo was a picture of Richie Cantor and a patient in the Peds ED. Dr. Welch stated in his newsletter that both pictures “will be featured on NACHRI advertising materials and in their touring exhibition in the coming year. We will have the exhibit in the gallery at some point in 2011”.

The National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) introduced their National Photo Exhibit in 1993. This is a collection of photographs and children's artwork submitted by children's hospitals from all over the country. This artwork and photographs illustrate the work children's hospitals are doing and the children they are serving. You can learn more about the NACHRI and their photo exhibit on their website: www.childrenshospitals.net

New Holiday Party Contest Winners
We are pleased to announce a grand prize winner to this year’s annual holiday party contest. As most of you know, on Friday, December 17th at the annual holiday party, everyone was invited to try to guess which resident or faculty had given one of 25 different answers to questions about themselves. This was obviously a particularly difficult contest since no one got more than 10 out of the 25 correct. But there was one individual who got more answers correct than anyone else.

First Prize: Dr. Beth Nelsen (please arrange to pick up your fabulous prize package from the Crier).

In keeping with a long standing tradition, we have also identified two winners of this year’s Nancy Roizen “I couldn’t have possibly cheated” award for the least number of correct answers. There is no prize other than the satisfaction of being publically honored for playing fair. However, we are not able to reveal the names of our two losers...err... winners, because they both turned in their answer sheets, with two correct answers each, without putting their names on it (chickens!).

And finally, for all those others who entered and are curious about what the correct answers were, you will find the complete contest with answers online.

Newly Retired - Dr. Kurlandsky
As 2010 came to a close, so did the Upstate career of one of our beloved pulmonologists as Dr. Larry Kurlandsky decided to retire. Dr. Kurlandsky shared the following “good bye” with all of us:

As you know by now, at the end of December, I retired from the Department of Pediatrics. While this decision seemed sudden, the reasons behind it were many and I believe sound. As Harry Callahan (Clint Eastwood) famously stated in the movie, “Magnum Force” 1973, “A man's got to know his limitations.” I feel that I am now a megahertz person in a gigahertz world. Patty Mondore asked me to say a few words of good bye in “The Crier.”

As you know, I have spent 36+ years in Pediatrics. Trained in Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy, and Immunology, in the “early days” I was the director of an accredited CF clinic, director of a pulmonary clinic, residency and student clerkship director, and functioned as a de facto intensivist, generalist, and ID resource being the only hospital pediatrician other than the hospital’s neonatologists. For the 10 years before coming here, I was in my own private practice of Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy, and Immunology. However, I missed interacting with students, residents, and the collegiality of partners. With my children gone from home, mostly, I looked at a number of positions.

On a rainy April day in 2005, I found my way to the Department of Pediatrics office here. After meeting Dr. Welch, his kind office staff, and ultimately Drs. Anbar and Soultan and their wonderful clinic staff, I knew I had found my new home.

It is an understatement to say that this Department, the University, and medicine in general have undergone huge changes in the brief 4½ years that I have been here. These changes have magnified a few of my well known idiosyncrasies such as carrying a “doctor bag” and using a double headed stethoscope. I can no longer sum up pediatric pulmonology by quoting “roses are red, violets are blue, without your lungs, you would be too”. I have had an intellectually stimulating time interacting with colleagues, residents, and students. My participation in this Pediatric Pulmonary Center has provided me with new and fulfilling opportunities to have contributed to the clinical and academic growth of this group.

As an “outsider” to this Department and University, I have been sincerely impressed by the commitment, energy, and passion to patient care by the members and staff of this Department and of the Golisano Children’s Hospital. The name “Golisano” is more appropriate than one might think. Of Italian derivation, it translates into gol (goal) and sano (health) translates into gol (goal) and sano (health). Of Italian derivation, it translates into gol (goal) and sano (health). Of Italian derivation, it translates into gol (goal) and sano (health). Of Italian derivation, it translates into gol (goal) and sano (health).
Generated genetically modified mice that lacked expression of a gene called SHIP.

The awarding of this grant is a culmination of over 10 years of research that began when I was an Assistant Professor at Penn in the late 90s. There I identified the first small molecules that can inhibit SHIP activity in vivo and we now have data these chemical inhibitors can reduce GvHD and improve engraftment in pre-clinical models of allogeneic BMT. Hopefully we are now poised to realize the prediction I made in our Science paper, I wrote the following, "inhibition of SHIP signaling should be explored as a means to increase both the efficacy and utility of allogeneic BM transplantation.”

New Chair for Dr. Liptak
(from Dr. Welch): Greg Liptak has been elected Chairperson of the Council on Disabilities of the American Academy of Pediatrics. His term will start on July 1, 2011. The Crier had an exclusive interview with Dr. Liptak and learned that the American Academy of Pediatrics uses Councils (6) and Sections (48) to conduct its day-to-day business. Dr. Liptak was elected chairperson of the Council on Children with Disabilities, after spending 4 years on its Executive Committee. This council advocates for children with disabilities as well as for pediatricians who provide care for them. It develops and publishes guidelines for care–recent ones include screening all children for developmental disabilities, identifying and treating children with autism, and caring for children with cerebral palsy in the medical home. It provides opportunities for continuing education for physicians in practice and consults with other entities to provide expert information in this area. It collaborates with AAP lobbyists to advocate for children through Congress and throughout the 50 states and territories. When asked about winning this prestigious honor, Dr. Liptak told the Crier, “Actually, I ’stuffed' the [electronic] ballot box!”

That aside, congratulations, Greg.

New Grant
Dr. Welch recently announced that Dr. Bill Kerr received a notice of award for his third NIH R-01 award. Dr. Kerr tells the Crier:

"I had isolated the SHIP gene while doing my fellowship in Genetics at Stanford (with Leonard Herzenberg and his wife Leonore). After I and the SHIP mutant mice relocated to Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa FL I asked a young technician in the lab, Julie Howson (Cornell grad and now ER doc in Tampa), to look at rejection of allogeneic bone marrow grafts by SHIP mutant mice vs wild-type controls. I had a hunch that natural killer cell function might be altered by the SHIP mutation. In a “Eureka!” moment, Julie walked into my office one day and said "The SHIP mice don't reject the allogeneic grafts!" [see picture from her lab notebook online] I said with a hint of derision, "No way! Do it again." She did it again, and yet a third time and she got the same result each time. Unlike like their WT counterparts, SHIP mutant mice failed to reject MHC mismatched bone marrow grafts. Julie and Kim Paraíso in my group went on to show that the mice also had reduced Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD) post-transplant. This led to a paper in SCIENCE and my pursuit of a dormant interest in allogeneic BMT that I had harbored since my days as a group leader at SyStemix (the first stem cell company founded by Irv Weissman in Palo Alto, CA). In the final paragraph of our Science paper, I wrote the following, “inhibition of SHIP signaling should be explored as a means to increase both the efficacy and utility of allogeneic BM transplantation.” Well, fast forward 8 years later and my group has now identified the first small molecules that can inhibit SHIP activity in vivo and we now have data these chemical inhibitors of SHIP can, like the SHIP mutation, lower the immune barrier to engraftment of a completely unmatched BM graft. It's really satisfying that genetics and chemistry agree - Mendel and Lavoisier would be pleased! The new grant from the NIH will allow us to pursue testing of chemical inhibition of SHIP in earnest to determine if a SHIP inhibition approach can reduce GvHD and improve engraftment in pre-clinical models of allogeneic BMT. Hopefully we are now poised to realize the prediction I made in the pages of Science some 8 years ago. Note that the ten year anniversary of this experiment will be Monday January 17th, 2011. Champagnes on me.

New Job for Bennett
Congratulations to Nick Bennett who has signed with UConn in Pediatric Infectious Diseases for next year. Nick tells the Crier, "The new job is a faculty position in Pediatrics that I really satisfying that genetics and chemistry agree - Mendel and Lavoisier would be pleased! The new grant from the NIH will allow us to pursue testing of chemical inhibition of SHIP in earnest to determine if a SHIP inhibition approach can reduce GvHD and improve engraftment in pre-clinical models of allogeneic BMT. Hopefully we are now poised to realize the prediction I made in the pages of Science some 8 years ago. Note that the ten year anniversary of this experiment will be Monday January 17th, 2011. Champagnes on me.

New Chiefs
For those who may not have heard, congratulations to all of us, and to Marium Gill and Saleh Bhar who will be our chief residents for 2011/2012.

New Babies
Once again it was Ace Reporter Beth Nelsen who broke both stories: Congratulations to Amy DiFabio on the birth of Matthew David Stilwell on 12/3/10 at 7lb 8oz and 20 1/4 inches, and to Angelle Cresswell who gave birth to Jacob on 12/28/10 at 6 lb 7 oz. Pictures of both babies are pending.

El Salvador Update (See online)
Joe Domachowske

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
1/4  Bob Hingre
1/8  Christy Rivers
1/11 Ashley Meyer
1/13 John Andrake
1/15 Enisa Hodzi
1/15 Matthew Ryzewski
1/16 Jennifer Sacks
1/20 John Friedman
1/24 Nancy Boeing
1/25 Nienke Dosa
1/30 Dany Curi
1/30 Imran Malik