Holiday Contest Winners Announced

The annual Housestaff/Faculty Party was held in the Kinney Center at Noon on December 16th. As has been our tradition, it includes a holiday contest. This year contestants had to identify pictures of various faculty members (or, parts of various faculty members). There was only one person who got every single answer correct so the grand prize this year goes to Katie Fry.

We also have a clear winner of the “Nancy Roizen I Couldn’t Possibly Have Cheated” award for having the most wrong answers of any answer sheet submitted. That prize goes to Beth Nelsen. Congratulations to both of our winners. Each of you may stop by the Crier office to pick up your fabulous prize package. Click here for a complete list of correct answers.

A Tribute to Dr. Karjoo

By Dr. Mirza Beg

On December 21, 2011 the Division of Pediatric GI had an open house for its new clinic. This new colorful clinic space occupies almost half of the 5th floor of Physician Office Building (POB) with more than 20 examination and staff rooms and a separate procedure room within the clinic for capsule endoscopy and other minor procedures. The Division of Pediatric GI was established in 1973 by Dr. Karjoo when the legendary Pediatrician Dr. Frank Oski was Chairman of Department of Pediatric. Initially GI was a one room division within the General Pediatric clinic with 2 half day clinics per week, but due to its rapid growth in 1992 it moved to the 4th floor of the POB where Dr. Karjoo shared space with Pediatric Surgery. In 2004 Dr. Beg joined the division and due to increased needs for more space, GI moved to the 8th floor of the POB. Last year Drs. Rivera and Wali also joined GI making it 4 attendings, 3 GI nurses, 3 receptionists, 2 medical office assistants and 1 research coordinator. The GI division needed a more spacious place to accommodate daily operational activities so this new clinic place was built and renovated. The current GI Clinic setting with its bright color combination is a mirror copy of the Golisano Children’s Hospital. As Dr. Karjoo was behind the success and growth of this division over the last 3 decades, the hospital administration and Pediatric Department decided to dedicate this new place in his honor. Officially it is now the “Karjoo Family Center for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition”. Congratulations to all staff members of GI division.

A Christmas Wish Fulfilled

The GCH received a phone call just prior to the holidays from a former patient’s mom asking if we could help her give him the one item he asked for on his Christmas wish list this year. Nine-year old Zackerhia Cowling had spent some time in the GCH as an inpatient and remembered seeing a sick little boy’s face light up when he received a card from someone. When his mom asked him what he wanted for Christmas this year, he ripped up his Christmas wish list and said that the only thing he wanted to be able to do was to write and deliver a Christmas card for every other kid who was in the hospital over the holidays. With the help of some of his school classmates and Child Life, Zackerhia’s wish was fulfilled. He and his mom dropped off over 65 hand-written Christmas cards one for each of the children who had to spend the holidays in the hospital. Thank you, Zackerhia for making the holidays a little brighter for so many sick kids.

The Sound of Music

Many of you have probably noticed a cart of musical instruments rolling through the GCH. Clare Arezina is our new music therapist and we asked her to introduce herself and her work to us:

Clare Arezina, MT-BC, CCLS, is the full-time music therapist at UGCH. Prior to joining the Child Life team in June 2011, she completed her master’s coursework in Music Therapy at the University of Kansas. Other prior experience includes work with children with developmental and learning delays age 3-21 (especially preschoolers with Autism), and music therapy and medicine research at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

What is music therapy? - Music is powerful: it can enhance mood, provide a focus for attention, encourage communication and self-expression, and foster creativity. Music therapy is the clinical, evidence-based use of music to help individuals of all ages improve their functional abilities and quality of life. Music therapists carefully assess an individual’s needs before designing and implementing a treatment plan to address those needs through music.
Who can be a music therapist? - A music therapist is a board-certified professional who has completed a clinical training program at the bachelor’s or master’s level. Music therapy is a specialized degree program that includes coursework in human development, psychology, music composition, and music performance, and includes experience working with a wide variety of populations. Music therapists are specifically trained to assess individual needs and design music experiences to meet those needs.

How can music therapy help children in the hospital? - When used with children in the hospital, music therapy can decrease perception of pain, alleviate fear and anxiety, offer opportunities for choice and control, and teach and support healthy coping skills. Music therapy can also help to normalize the hospital environment, aid in relaxation/sleep, enhance mood, provide multi-sensory stimulation, or provide motivation and support to reach rehabilitative goals. Children in the hospital have a variety of extra-medical needs, and music therapy can help to meet many of those needs.

What happens during a music therapy session? - Every patient is different, so every session is different! The music therapist provides music and materials appropriate to the patient’s age, diagnosis, and identified needs. A music therapy session may include some or all of the following: Instrument play/exploration, Singing familiar songs, teaching and/or practicing music-assisted relaxation exercises, Song lyric discussion, Songwriting, Movement to music, Musical improvisation, Drumming, Instrument instruction, Live music at bedside to increase/decrease arousal, Collaboration with patient, family, and/or other staff members to develop an individualized coping plan using music.

How is music therapy provided at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital? - Music therapy may be provided to patients and their families individually or in a group setting. The music therapist will assess patient/family needs and determine a treatment plan to best address those needs. Because the music therapist is a member of the multi-disciplinary health care team, s/he frequently communicates and collaborates with other team members to assure continuity of care. Patients may be referred for services by Child Life Specialists, nursing staff, doctors, other healthcare staff, or at the request of a patient or family.

To learn more about music therapy, look to the American Music Therapy Association: http://www.musictherapy.org, or feel free to contact Clare: arezinac@upstate.edu.

**Pursa Palooza Huge Success!**

**Christy Hall**

Many thanks to all our patients, families, staff and friends for supporting our 1st Pursa Palooza purse and bag sale! We raised over $1300!

New and gently used purses and bags were donated in the weeks leading up to the sale on Wed., Nov. 30. We held the sale in the small cafeteria here at University Hospital. Customers made a donation to the Tammy Twitchell Crafts Foundation, Inc. for any bags they wanted to purchase. A few high-end purses and bags had set prices from $10-$30.

The Tammy Twitchell Crafts Foundation, Inc. (TTCF, Inc.) was started in memory of one of our adult patients, Tammy Twitchell Crafts. TTCF, Inc. provides assistance to families who are affected by Cystic Fibrosis. Many of our patients and their families have received gas cards, holiday gift cards and other assistance through the years courtesy of TTCF, Inc..

Save your gently used and new bags for our “Spring Cleaning Sale” in April 2012! More info to follow in the next newsletter.

**“The Essence of Public Health”**

In case you missed it, our very own Dr. Joe Domachowske recently appeared on WSYR TV and gave an interview on the work he and his team has been doing in helping make sure that all of the kids in our community have access to the vaccinations that they need. You can see the entire interview online at: http://www.9wsyr.com/mediacenter/local.aspx?videoId=3111430

Thanks to Reporter Nelsen bringing this story to our attention. Beth noted, “It’s an enormous effort at making sure the kids in this community are vaccinated, regardless of their financial or insurance status. This is the essence of public health.” Here are a few more details about the project:

**Decreased Barriers & Increased Immunizations**

Frank Oski used to say that pediatricians who stay in the office aren’t good doctors. They have to go to where the children are. Several members of the Peds ID team came up with a very innovative way to do just that, recently. Manika Suryadevara and Joe Domachowske learned of a grant being offered by ASPIRE (Pfizer) called “Decreasing Barriers to Immunizations” and came up with a proposal entitled, “Community-based organizations as conduits to reach the under-vaccinated children in the community.” They thought through the various ways to reach these children but it wasn’t until they saw the sign on a red kettle that they got the idea that not only won them the grant, but also allowed them to vaccinate children who had not previously been vaccinated. Every year the Salvation Army has a toy/book/meal give-away that draws over 4000 kids. So Manika and Joe asked the Salvation Army if, at the event registration, they could talk to all the families about their children’s immunizations. They agreed, and with the help of a number of medical students and faculty, many families were able to give their input and talk about vaccinations. Also, about 450 people, including parents and children, were able to receive free immunizations.

The team enrolled 1533 children which involved talking to families about perceptions on vaccines and the importance of a medical home, looking up all their immunization records in NYISIIS, and discussing which vaccines were delayed. The team plans to follow each of the children throughout the year to ensure they are all caught up with their vaccines. They will also help every child find a medical home within the community. After talking with the families, free influenza and meningococcal vaccines were offered to all family members. The team ended up vaccinating about 450 people between 6 months and 94 years all in 12 days. To help make this possible, over 50 medical students volunteered their time over the two weeks, to give vaccines. In addition, Frank Ferraioli, the Peds ID clinical research assistant, and Cindy Bonville, from the Peds ID labs, were there throughout the event. It was a huge success thanks to a great idea on Dr. Suryadevara’s part and a lot of helping hands to put the idea into action.
From UpState Online:
Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital has been accepted by The National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) as a full-voting institutional member. NACHRI’s 221 members and supporters serve as a collective voice for health systems devoted to the well being of America’s 88 million children and their families. NACHRI’s mission is to keep children’s health a national priority. http://upstateonline.info/static/Nov30-Dec72011/blog/story-2/index.html

Upstate receives St. Baldrick’s grant to benefit children with cancer

Upstate Medical University has received a $60,000 infrastructure grant from the St. Baldrick’s Foundation to further its participation in the Children’s Oncology Group (COG), a clinical trials group supported by the National Cancer Institute. According to its website, COG designs and conducts about 100 clinical trials annually to find the best treatments for children and adolescents with cancer. “We thank the St. Baldrick’s Foundation for this grant,” said Karol H. Kerr, MD, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at Upstate. “With the support from the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, the Pediatric Oncology Team at the Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital will continue to provide the children of central New York with the most up-to-date cancer therapies in collaboration with the Children’s Oncology Group.”

Holiday Cheer
On December 22nd, twelve members of the Chittenango HS Chamber Orchestra came to the GCH to play a holiday concert in the Performance Center for patients and families from 11:15-11:45am. (photo compliments of Kathleen Paice). Thank you to each of the musicians who came and donated their time and talents to help make the holidays a little brighter for our kids!

Since you asked…
The GCH Memory Tree was created by Accufab, Inc. out of Ithaca. www.accufabinc.com/

Welcome Baby Boy Kai Ayrton
The Crier received the following wonderful news from Courtney Du Mond: “After coming in on Wednesday for an induction, Kai Ayrton Du Mond was born at 7:36am yesterday (12/9) weighing 7.2oz. Baby, mom and dad are doing very well. Please forward our happy news on to everyone at work.” Congratulations, Courtney!

Welcome Logan Alan
Congratulations to Jamie Cary (Child Life) on the birth of baby boy Logan Alan born 12/11 at 8 lbs 5oz.

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month
By Lisa Blystone
The Pediatric Star-of-the-Month is Jaclyn Sisskind for the extra efforts she undertook to arrange a good turnout for the applicant dessert meetings with the residents. It was a big help to Dr. Andrake, and left a great impression with the applicants. Jaclyn, please contact Patty Mondore (4-5800) or Lisa Blystone (4-7600) to pick out your star prize.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
1/4 Bob Hingre
1/5 Muaz Alwan
1/11 Ashley Meyer
1/13 John Andrake
1/15 Enisa Hodzi
1/15 Matthew Ryzewski
1/16 Jennifer Sacks
1/20 John Friedman
1/25 Nienke Dosa
1/28 Marwan Al Aswad, Brian Tran
1/30 Dany Curi
1/31 Aamer Imdad