The PAS Report from Boston
Once again, we were well represented by several members and former members of the department at the 2012 PAS meetings in Boston. And once again, Dr. Beth Nelsen was our embedded reporter along with our longstanding photojournalist, Rana El Feghaly both of whom were at the PAS with their own posters and presentations. Other familiar names and faces included Drs. Welch, Olson, Imdad, and Suryadevara, and former residents Christian Hanna, Mimi Seeherunvong, Jai and Sharda Udassi. Dr. Weiner also had three posters accepted. Beth gave the following report of her experience: This year PAS brought us to Boston, where if you time it right during the spring, is warm, sunny, and beautiful. The timing this year was spot-on. Plenty of great things to celebrate for us this year at PAS: posters by myself, Brad and Nate Herr (an MS4), Manika, and Aamer, along with a workshop by Brad and platform presentations by former residents Rana El Feghaly and Christian Hanna! And I may have gone to a baseball game. Probably thanks to Beth and Rana for their pictures (some of which actually included the PAS). See more photos online.

Aamer added the following comment: “I am happy to share that I had a great learning experience and was very excited to present my poster. I would like to thank the department for supporting me to present our work at this prestigious conference.”

Congratulations to all of the members of our department who represented us so well.

The CF Teaching Day
The Div. of Peds Pulmonary hosted a CF Teaching Day on 4/27 and 4/28. April 27 was the Staff teaching day, and 4/28 was a family teaching day. Both our Chief Residents were able to attend the event and future pulmonology fellow, Marium Gill gave the following report:

The 2nd annual CF Teaching Day this year was held on April 27th, 2012 at the Setnor Academic Building. The teaching day kicked off at 9 am with some great coffee, scones and fresh fruits. There were many pharmaceutical companies in the atrium who gave us insight into the newest meds being used in the treatment of CF. There were two excellent national level speakers – Dr. John LiPuma (Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, Univ of Michigan Medical School) and Dr. VanDevanter (Adjunct Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics) who discussed the following topics: “Infection in CF: Advances in our understanding of infection complexity in CF” and “controversies about CF Care”.

An excellent lunch was provided, and later the audience got a chance to have an interactive discussion with the guest speakers about common problems we were facing in our care of CF patients and how they at their centers deal with it. They also helped clarify many of the misconceptions about CF and the common organisms involved in CF.

Overall, it was a very well organized conference with great speakers. It was well attended by nurses, discharge coordinators, lab technicians and the staff at the pulmonary CF centre. Saleh and I both enjoyed the discussions/lectures by the speakers. We feel that all peds residents should try to make it to this annual teaching day as it is very educational. The discussions are simple and easy to understand. I would like to use this opportunity to thank Dr. Anbar for inviting us and to Mark Clauss for making it such a good experience.

PL3 Retreat
The PL3’s were able to escape from their daily responsibilities on May 4th to enjoy one last day together on their PL3 retreat.

They started with breakfast at Stella’s and then, after banging on Rajoo’s door and not being able to wake him out of a post-call sleep, most of the others headed to the Thousand Islands for a tour boat ride. Asalim and her soon-to-arrive baby decided to not risk seasickness but met the others later in the day for dinner. It was a wonderful opportunity for our graduating seniors to spend one last day together before heading off to their new horizons.

Guatemala Mission Trip
Kris Hingre
Editor’s Note: Community Pediatrician (and wife of Bob Hingre) recently returned from a Medical Missions trip to Guatemala. She shared the following:

I went with Glens Falls Medical Mission Foundation. They send a group of providers twice a year to a town in Guatemala. We basically took over a church compound and set up a pediatric, general medicine, women’s, dental, and eye clinic. About 2400 people were seen in 2 sites. The clinic was pretty sparse. We did our own vitals, growth data and medication dispensing. Thankfully we had wonderful interpreters including a bunch of high school students.

I expected to see lots of infections, malnutrition and diarrhea, but the most common complaint was the children have no appetite! It turns out that there are
similar diseases of poverty in developing
countries as there are in Syracuse (lots of
sweet drinks (weak coffee with lots of
sugar in the bottles, pepitos (chips) and
dulcinas (candy)). I did lots of nutritional
and dental health counseling. There were
however, a lot of really serious and
chronic diseases, that I was unable to do
much for. It was very anxiety provoking
deal with a child with chronic disease
with no past history or growth data
available and no way to arrange for
follow-up.

Some of the things we saw in clinic
included muscular dystrophy, epidermolysis
bullosa, partial albinism with roving
nyctagmus, severe hyptonia, single
ventricle, seizure disorder, some
malnutrition, lots of stunting due to past
malnutrition, worms, giardia amebiasis,
bad scabies, asthma, botched hypospadius
repair with incontinence in a 17 yo, incest,
school problems and threats of suicide.
There were a couple of colds and ear
infections.

I would most definitely encourage
anyone interested to have an experience
like this. It was really hard and
heart-wrenching but made you appreciate
the strengths of our medical system here. It
was a rare opportunity to see things I have
rarely seen in 20 years of practice. I had a
chance to practice clinical skills and see
what I remember from medical school
without diagnostic studies or reference
materials. I was also reminded of the
power of touch, listening and reassurance.

Best Wishes, Dr. Mackey
The Dept received the following note
from Jen Mackey:
To a beloved department, I wanted to say
farewell after 11 years. I will be moving
to London, Ontario to be closer to my
husband's family and friends. Thank you
to the faculty for all of your wisdom,
teaching and support. Thanks to the
support staff for all the help you have
given me throughout the years. Thanks to
the residents for doing a great job in the
peds ED! I will miss you all and always
think of you fondly.

All the best, Jennifer Mackey
Jen, we wish you and your family the very
best! Keep in touch!

Outstanding GME Awards
On May 31st our very own Jaclyn Sisskind
and Manika Survadevara were honored at
the GME’s Annual Awards Luncheon.
Jaclyn was the hospital-wide winner of
the GME peer nominated award for
Outstanding Teamwork. And Manika
won the GME Excellence in Research
award. Dr. Weiner was Manika’s
nominate and said a few words prior to
her receiving her plaque. Jaclyn’s
nominate, Asalim Thabet was unavailable
to make the presentation (see
“It’s a Boy) so
classmate Jen
Sacks spoke on
Asalim’s behalf.
Congratulations, Jaclyn and
Manika for these well deserved honors.

Peds Wins the Dog-A-Thon Run
It is not uncommon to hear of someone in
our department
who has run a 5K
race. It is a little
more unusual to
hear of someone
ran the 5k with
their dog… and
won!

Our very own
soon-to-be-intern
Steve Hicks and
his dog Miles
tied for first prize
in the the Fleet Feet Sports 4th Annual
Six-Legged 5k to benefit the CNY SPCA
with a time of 19:23. The record turnout
of more than 200 people helped raise
more than $6,700 for the SPCA.
Congratulations, Steve and Miles.

Pediatric Mountain Goats
On May 6th several members of the
Department of Pediatrics once again
represented us well at the Annual 10-Mile
Mountain Goat run. Included in the list of
finishers were Anne Sween, Ashley
Meyer, Steve Blatt, and Kelly Winchell!
Way to go, runners! For full results:
http://blog.syracuse.com/sports/2012/05/2
012_mountain_goat_results_fro.html

Muchas Gracias!
Joe Domachowski
Check out this video.
http://vimeo.com/42254306
I know every person in this video. I have
seen them, and their families in
clinic at Rancho Grande In El Salvador
for the last 7 years. Now they have clean
water, and many have the ability to
sustain crops during the dry season
because of this irrigation project that
YOU help to support. Its huge for their
nutrition and their economy. Thanks for
helping them!!!

It’s a Boy!
Congratulations to Asalim on the birth of
baby boy, Malik Aladwar. He arrived on
May 20th (her due date). Asalim wrote,
“God blessed my husband and
I with a beautiful baby boy. He
weighed 7lbs 10oz and 21 in.
The baby and parents are all doing well.”

It’s a Girl!
Congratulations to Saleh Bhar and his
wife Ruba on the birth of
baby girl Rayyan
born on May 29th at 7
lbs, 4 oz. Mom, baby,
and Dr. Pepper are all doing great.

Hold the Mayo
We just received the following wonderful
news from former resident, Imad Absah:
“I want you to know that I have accepted
a position here at the Mayo Clinic as
junior faculty and we are just waiting for
the VISA change (Waiver approval)
which I am hoping will happen soon.
Other than that I am hoping that some day
I’ll be able to come back and maybe do a
Grand Rounds at Syracuse or just for a
visit. You can let people know. I won't be
here without their support.”
Congratulations, Imad!

Best Wishes, Mandy
It is with sadness we say goodbye to our
longtime colleague Mandy Trudell who
has been an administrative assistant for
heme/onc for almost 25 years. She retired
in May. Mandy shares the following:

I wanted to share a few memories with the
crier. I wanted to thank the wonderful
people I have worked with, now, and in the past, and I hoped to remind people of how fortunate we are to be part of something that is so unique, so vital.

I started in Peds in April of 1988 after working in the hospital since 1983. I thought it would be a 3 year stint and I would move on. Never did I imagine I would find a second home. Never did I imagine the impact that this place and people would have on my life. Never did I imagine that I would come to regard some of the people here as my closest friends, as members of my family. But it happened. I’ve experienced the wonder of weddings, births, graduations, and, new people joining the group. I’ve experienced the sorrow of deaths and departures. It was always a team effort. NEVER did I ever feel that I was just a “secretary”. NEVER did anyone from physicians on down ever make me feel any less a part of that team.

Like so many of you, I’m a kid at heart. And, with luck, I found a place where I didn’t have to grow up. I found a place I could age, mature, and possibly, get a little wiser but didn’t have to grow up. I found Neverland. I treasure memories of giving rides on IV poles, of playing catch with stuffed frogs, and admiring a bandaged stuffed pet who had just gotten it’s treatment. I let toddlers getting chemo banging away on my computer and enjoyed a conversation with a teenager about school, friends, and dreams of their future.

I have been to too many funerals with tiny caskets. I’ve been to too many where my heart broke because a teenager would not have the opportunity to live out the dreams they had shared. BUT, I’ve also experienced the incredible joy when a former patient walks through the door as a young adult to introduce us to their spouse or their child. That makes the sad times bearable.

I had started here as a parent of two young children. My pediatrician, who was by then my children’s pediatrician, Martin Ushkow, said “when you were your children’s age there was no need for such a place. If you had cancer, we sent you home to die”. Today that is far from the case. How far we’ve come in such a short time! How blessed we are!

I retire a grandparent with 3 incredible grandchildren. Being part of “5C” helped teach my son and daughter more about compassion and understanding then I could have on my own. Nothing will ever equal my experiences over the last 24 years. I believe that being part of this group, whether now or in the past transcends having a career or a job; it is a blessing. It is a special place. I am honored to have been a tiny part of it.

Raising local awareness that we had a children’s cancer center right here became part of my life. It started when Gloria Kennedy found out that our own child care center was raising funds for St. Jude’s. I argued with managers at Media Play when they raised money for Minnesota. They didn’t even realize we were right here, at the same hospital. (I won’t get on my soap box about St. Jude’s fundraising methods).

Ron Dubowy, Bonnie Toms and I approached the foundation about ways we could raise awareness that we were here. We did a huge mailing to all physicians in the local area. We started the “Little Gifts for Life” auction and “Cards for Kids” programs. Both programs ran very successfully for about 10 years. The Little Gifts for Life auction grew from a small event at the Holiday Inn, to practically outgrowing the On-Center. The holiday card program eventually had orders from all over the country. Over the years, I sold anything from gold ribbons, holiday cards and maple syrup. I spoke on radio and TV telling anyone listening that we are here and follow some of the same treatment plans as any of those larger facilities do, and we are closer to their homes and their families. So, hopefully, I made a few contributions.

As I move forward, I hope to leave people with good memories. I know I have many. So, my thanks to all of you. To those who are here today and to those who have gone before me. Thank you for who you are and what you do. Please remember with each child you see and each family you touch, you have been entrusted with their most precious gift. Cherish each one as you would your own.

Mandy, thank you for these beautiful thoughts! We wish you the very best!