The Grand Opening, Continues:
Grand Opening of the Grand Opening
On Monday, February 15th the Treehouse opened the doors of its main entrance for the first time. Several of our residents were there to be among the first to walk through them.

Defeating Monsters in the GCH
The Crier recently learned that one of the patients who was treated at the new GCH will soon be featured on the popular Animal Planet TV series, “Monsters Inside Me.” When Chris Speelman’s dad first took him to the Upstate ED he had no idea that it would turn into a drama that nearly took Chris’s life. Chris was admitted and was diagnosed with encephalitis. He ended up in the PICU and was eventually determined that Chris’s illness was due to a rare parasite called Acanthamoeba. That’s where Animal Planet came in. When Chris’s parents submitted their story to “Monsters Inside Me,” it wasn’t long before a film crew showed up at the GCH for a reenactment starring several of our very own doctors. A short clip is available on the WSYR-TV website featuring Chris, several of the nurses, and Dr. Andrake who was obviously taking his role very seriously. The show is to be aired some time this year on Animal Planet. Dr. Andrake will not be available for autographs.

Welcome, Dr. Satish Krishnamurty!
It took a little while, but the Crier finally tracked down our new pediatric neurosurgeon and got the following exclusive interview.

Dr. Satish Krishnamurthy is a board certified neurosurgeon practicing pediatric and minimally invasive neurosurgery. He was trained at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center (Penn State University) and did his minimally invasive neurosurgery fellowship at the University of Mainz, Germany. Inspired by the vast potential of the new Golisano Children’s Hospital, he returned to Syracuse and is known to this community since 2000.

In addition to his clinical practice he also has a passionate interest in improving the care of children and adults with hydrocephalus. His research has focused on improving the diagnosis of shunt problems, predicting the prognosis of patients with hydrocephalus and understanding the fundamental mechanisms underlying the development of this disorder. Additionally he has received international recognition for his clinical expertise in performing endoscopic third ventriculostomies (a shunt free surgical alternative in the treatment of hydrocephalus).

Dr. Krishnamurthy tells the Crier that his non-medical interests include listening to Jazz and writing - mostly nonfiction. He has illustrated a few of his scientific articles. He also loves watching cartoons and public speaking.

We are delighted to have Dr. Krishnamurthy join us and warmly welcome him to the department.

Movin’ on Down
Editor’s Note: Have you visited 4A/4C, lately? There have been some exciting new changes down there. Crier Reporter Mandy Trudell explains and gives a brief history of the events that led up to our newest heme/onc floor that opened last month.

In the 1960’s children diagnosed with cancer were not treated as outpatients but were admitted directly to the inpatient floor for all their treatments. In the 1970’s an outpatient center was established on 4 West. In June of 1972, the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Outpatient Unit, lovingly referred to as “5C” was established. Immunology patients followed six months later according to Dr. Len Weiner.

At one time it was a first come, first serve type of operation. Providers told patients “come back next Tuesday” and they came on Tuesday whenever they felt like it. Interestingly enough, everyone seemed to show up at the same time. Then there was a mad scramble to find charts, a free exam room, meds, etc. In late 1988 a scheduling system was adapted with Hem/Onc patients seen on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays. Immunology patients were seen on Wednesday along with Dr. Spitzer’s renal patients.

Many firsts came about during those years. Hem/Onc parents were vital in the establishment of the Ronald McDonald House. The first child life specialist in the hospital was in 5C. The McDonald House helped fund a dedicated social worker for Hem/Onc patients and families. In the late 80’s, several sub-specialty clinics were established within the peds hem/onc unit. Hemophilia patients were seen on Thursdays. Brain Tumors were seen monthly. A comprehensive clinic was started for sickle cell patients. Through improvement in therapy childhood cancer survivors evolved. In early 1990, Susan Shaw established one of the first survivor clinics in the United States.

Physicians at the helm of the clinic included the late Dr. Frank Oski, who was a world renown hematologist and author. His Nathan and Oski textbook is a must for students who are interested in the hem/onc field. Next, Dr. James Stockman took charge until he moved on to become the head of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Following Dr. Stockman was Dr. Marie Stewart who took charge until she moved on to CHOP to continue her...
work with platelets and sickle cell patients. In her stead, Dr. Ronald Dubowy took charge for the next 20 years and now is happily working for Bayer Pharmaceuticals. Our current director, Dr. Richard Sills, arrived in 2007. He recently negotiated a contract which will give us new space in the future Oncology Building allowing us to accommodate continued growth.

While over the years we have seen many faces come and go, an article about 5C would not be complete without mentioning Daga Veits. Daga was the head nurse in 5C from the day it was started until her retirement. She ran a tight ship. She could be tough with staff but had a soft spot for the kids. You could see her playing catch with a stuffed bean bag frog or putting a bandage on a stuffed animal’s foot because it made the child feel better. Rides on IV poles were not uncommon.

The clinic continued to grow. Several renovations took place throughout the years. After many discussions with hospital administration late in 1988 brought renovation to the clinic area was renovated to give us a little more space. Then, in the late 90’s it was again renovated to update us and giving us space down the 5B hallway, making the reception/play area larger, and giving us a separate infusion area.

On February 8th, another change took place. “5C” began a move to their temporary home in the old 4A inpatient unit. This will be home until the new building is built. On the morning of the 8th, Reverend Louise Shepard led a closing ceremony where staff passed around seashells and reminisced about 5C. Then she led a procession to the new center on 4A and into the Playroom/Infusion Area. Muffins and doughnuts followed. So, after 38 years, “5C” is no longer “5C” but moving forward onto bigger and brighter horizons.

**Pediatric Star-of-the-Month**

**Lisa Blystone**

Congratulations to Ahmad El Samra who was pulled two days in a row to help with coverage, and did a great job without complaining. Thanks, Ahmad, you are a star. Please contact Patty Mondore or Lisa Blystone to pick out your Star prize.

**Move Along, Inc**

The Crier recently learned about a local organization that has been doing some exciting work with children with disabilities. Several of our own Upstate Pediatric Child Development patients have participated in its various activities. Move Along’s Founder, Greg Callen, explains on his blog that he fell from a 13-foot balcony in 2005 resulting in a condition of Thoracic 12 complete paraplegia. He writes, “After a few years of depression and learning about who I was as a person, not a body, I have made it my mission to assist others in finding resources to enable them to feel confident and strong about what they can accomplish! Move Along promotes wheelchair athletics and competitive programs for disabled persons and their families. Our goal is to provide a brighter future for individuals and their respective families, through athletics, group discussions, seminars, and one-on-one counseling. At Move Along Inc., Attitude is Altitude!”

One of their main programs is Sled Hockey. Sled hockey was invented at a Stockholm Sweden rehabilitation center in the early 1960’s by a group of people who, despite their physical disability, wanted to play the sport of hockey. Players sit in specially designed sleds that sit on top of two hockey blades. There are two sticks for each player to use. One end of the stick has an ice pick for propulsion on the ice while the other end is used for stickhandling the puck. Sled hockey is similar to regular hockey in that games are played on a standard hockey rink with regulation goals.

Just recently, Move Along Inc. held its second community sled hockey clinic at Tenney Ice Pavilion, Syracuse University. The clinic was a huge success, with over 35 attendees who participated on the ice. The following Saturday, Move Along Inc. Sled Hockey Association and the Skaneateles Community Center hosted a Sled Hockey Exhibition with teams from Albany and Buffalo. They played a formal exhibition with officials, scoring, and a timekeeper. Their goal is to eventually have a Sled Hockey team right here in Syracuse. Their fans and supporters are helping them reach that goal.

Greg shared the story of how one fan, Carson Colucci (with the help of his parents, Pete and Kate Colucci) celebrated his eighth birthday by asking each of his 33 friends to only bring gifts in the form of donations made out to Move Along Inc. Carson and his friends contributed over $700 to assist their friend Brittany Kaye in playing a sport Carson loves, hockey! With the donation, Move Along was able to special order a sled ($680) for Brittany, as part of the Move Along Inc. Sled Hockey Association. The sled was available for the Tenney Ice Pavilion clinic enabling Brittany, Carson, and a few of their friends the opportunity to play hockey together for the first time. With the generous support of people like Carson, his friends, and parents, Move Along will continue to help many more children with physical disabilities enjoy time playing games with their friends! To learn more contact Greg at greg@movealonginc.com or at 374.0082.

**In the Muse...**

The Crier recently learned that our very own Dr. Robert Lebel was published in the latest issue of The Healing Muse. The Muse is an annual publication from the Upstate Dept of Bioethics and Humanities. His poem, “The Sonogram” has also now been selected for the website. Dr. Lebel tells the Crier that “The poem is inspired by the painful experience that families have when prenatal ultrasound reveals life-threatening abnormalities.” You can read it online at: www.upstate.edu/bioethics/theselingmuse/09_muse/09_lebel_thesonogram.php

**Mardi Gras from Angelle Cresswell:**

Hope all is well in Syracuse. I miss everyone sooo much! Just thought I’d share this pic with the department. Denise and her family joined us for Mardi Gras and we had a blast! Please give everyone hugs for me (that’s a lot of hugs!) Love, Angelle

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

3/5 Jo Ann Saba, 3/6 Christian Hanna
3/12 Saleh, Bhar, Majd Dardas
3/13 Dan Kveselis, 3/15 Robert Kanter
3/19 Frieda Ansoanuur, Nader Atallah
3/20 Maureen Famiglietti
3/22 Beth Jamme, 3/25 Ann Botash
3/29 Rajoo Thapa