Above and Beyond

The Festschrift
Save the date for a very special event and a celebration of Dr. Greg Liptak’s career in the form of an academic Festschrift. Dr. Liptak is a nationally known figure in the field of child development and the department will be paying tribute to him at this event to be held on Saturday, March 24 that will include a scientific program in the Treehouse during the afternoon and a dinner to follow. In addition to the outside speakers, the incoming President of the American Academy of Pediatrics will be there to present an award to Dr. Liptak for his service as Chair on the AAP Council on Children with Disabilities.

Mid-Winter Dinner/Dance
The annual pediatric mid-winter dinner/dance was held on Saturday, February 25th at the Traditions at the Links Restaurant. A lovely time was had by all. Special thanks to the faculty, Beth Nelsen, Bill Hannan, Karol Kerr, and Melissa Schafer who covered the floors so the residents could all be there. Thanks, too, to all of the very generous faculty donors who made the event possible. Most of all, thanks to chief residents Saleh Bhar and Marium Gill for making it all come together.

Congratulations to our very own Peds ID fellow (soon-to-be faculty), Manika Suryadevvara for being selected for the second year in a row to present a platform talk at the 2nd Annual Beyond the Doctorate Research Day for Post Docs, Residents and Fellows on March 1st from 12:30 to 3:30 PM in Rm 2231 of Weiskotten Hall. Manika will be presenting her research on “Respiratory viruses are routinely detected 2:30 pm from the nasopharynx of children hospitalized with febrile neutropenia” at 1 PM. There will be a poster session immediately following the presentations in the Weiskotten cafeteria. Congratulations, again, Manika!

More Accolades
Congratulations to Aamer Imdad for having his abstract entitled, “Vaccination exemptions vary greatly in New York State” accepted at the New York Academy of Medicine’s Pediatric Trainees night in New York City on March 20th. The same abstract (co-written with Drs. Domachowske, Shaw, et al) has also been accepted for the PAS meetings in Boston. In addition, Aamer was co-author of an another article that was published in the Lancet (now available online – (Link) http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(11)61877-1/abstract. Congratulations, Aamer!

Dancing the Night Away for GCH
The 10th Anniversary Father-Daughter Valentine Ball was held at the State Fair’s Empire Room on Feb 7th. Not only did a lot of dads and daughters have a lovely evening, but all of the proceeds from the event were once again used to support Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital and Upstate Cancer Center. Almost 700 girls danced the night away with their dads raising more than $29,000 for pediatric cancer services the GCH. The event was once again provided by the Eastside Vineyard Church. A couple of the pediatric daughters (and their dads) were there representing the department including Neal Seidberg and his daughters, and Eric Shaw (Jana’s husband) and their two girls (pictured below). For more pictures, visit Upstate GCH on Facebook.

Medical Mission to Bateyes
Bonnie Miner, MS, RN, CNS
Editor’s Note: The Crier learned that our very own Bonnie Miner went on a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic in February. Bonnie shared the following report about her experience:
After coming back from the Dominican Republic it’s been hard to get back to a normal routine both at work and at home. The people that I saw and cared for will be forever on my mind. I was privileged to be able to go on a Mission to La Romana DR with International Ministries from 2/11 through 2/18. There were 34 people our team including three other people from my church (Eastwood Baptist). The Mission was organized by the East Greenwich Church in Rhode Island. Another man from Portland, Maine was a pharmacist and was added to the team through International Ministries (thank God he was, because he was instrumental in the phenomenal work our pharmacy did on site). Our mission assignments included bringing medical clinics out to the bateyes (villages in the sugar cane field) and to also provide work crews to help with the building of the Good Samaritan Hospital of La Romana.
As a nurse I was assigned to the medical team and we provided everything from dental to surgery. I was given the assignment of hypertension protocol application and patient education. I ended up doing triage, manual B/P rechecks and patient education on the importance...
Our morning started with loading up the school buses with the multiple bins of medications and equipment, a real team effort. After a 30 to 40 minute bumpy ride on dirt roads though endless fields of sugarcane we would arrive at our chosen batey of the day. There our interpreters would scope out what place we would be setting up, either the church or the school. Both of these were about 20 feet square which we would have to set up triage, a dental station, three clinical assessment stations, a pharmacy and a consultation area to review the medications prescribed to the patients. Outside they had to find a place for check in, a de-worming station and family planning consultations (for condom and birth control distribution).

The bateyes are the homes of the Haitian people who work on the sugarcane fields. They live in 10 by 15 foot shacks made from wood, tin or if they were lucky, cement. They provide places for a bed, a small table and possible kerosene burner to cook. Most of the meals were cooked in a fire pit outside each of the “houses” and water was obtained at a common water faucet (some of bateyes have had filtration systems added but they have only put these in about 20% of them). They struggle to make a living on the money they get from working with the cane. They get paid about $2.50 for each ton of cane they cut, which is usually about 2 tons per 12 hour day. This income is limited to 6 months a year, so many of the men need to find other work when the cane isn’t being harvested. Because they lack transportation they purchase most of their food from the company store which isn’t cheap.

We would be greeted by children, adolescents and young adults. We were told later by our Missionary Kristy Engel, that we are like a circus coming to town for many of the children. They are excited to see what we have brought and what we are wearing. I have dozens of photos of these beautiful children because they all want their picture taken. They look at the camera and laugh at their image.

What can’t be seen on the camera is that the ground is a mixture of soil, water, animal dung, pieces of trash, shreds of the sugar cane, and is infested with numerous parasites including round worm larva. What also can’t be seen is toys for the children to play with, there are no swings, bikes, or pull toys. The only toys I saw was a young boy had a hula-hoop and 2 others had trucks made from old oil bottles. The children spend most of their time wandering around or if they are fortunate to attend school (they must have a uniform and shoes to be able to attend).

I wasn’t sure what I would encounter but I was put on guard by our team leader and the interpreters. “Never go anywhere without someone with you”. My fear turned to compassion because what I did encounter were hard working people trying to make a living the only way they could. I was told that the life in bateyes is better than the life they would have back in Haiti which why they stay. This being said, the life they lead is hard. I fell in love with the old men (I am a hand tell the story of their struggle to make a living. Hands that resemble gnarled old trees, fingers thick with calluses and twisted from swinging machetes for 40 plus years. Wrinkled faces that have seen many days in the sun. How do I tell an 80 year old man that he has to remember to take his B/P medication everyday so that he won’t have stroke or his kidneys shut down… they have survived this long without them? After leaving the clinic he has to return to the field. I worry about him; he came with a B/P of 240/118. I tell him to take the white pill before he goes back to work. As we hand them packets of vitamins and other medications, I worry that they are taking them on empty stomachs.

At night we talk about our frustrations and we also talk about where we saw God that day. The medical team had several stories about people they had treated, a 90 year old man near death from 2 weeks of diarrhea who with a little hydration and lots of prayers was sitting up to thank us and Jesus for making him feel better; pain medication and Benadryl for sleep for a women who had been sent home to die with a large abdominal tumor, and a young woman with a tumor caused by disseminated TB (she had 2 young daughters) who was being cared by a friend. Our frustration came from wondering if we were making any difference in the lives of these people. The building team also talked about the work at the hospital, carrying bags of sand up 2 flights of stairs, breaking up concrete, taking nails out of old pieces of wood. They couldn’t see how this was accomplishing anything until later that day they saw the sand being mixed with concrete and being poured into forms made out of the wood that they had removed nails from. The hospital has been under construction for 15 years. They now have two working floors, the first for surgery, X-Ray and office visits and the second floor for a pediatric unit and adult care center. Our last evening in DR we were able to talk with Kristy Engel and with Moises Sifren, (hospital administrator and former child of the bateyes) and they were able to answer questions that we had about the bateyes and the hospital. They told us that what seemed like a small amount of work was part of a bigger plan. Without teams coming to the La Ramana Mission then the bateyes would not get medical care and the hospital would not continue to be built. We were just one drop in a pail full of water that eventually would get filled. www.laromana.org/gsme.html
Patience is a Virtue (and a Patient)
Most of you will remember the inspiring story of former resident Saadiya Khan’s trip to Liberia and the particular care and concern she had for a five-year old girl named Patience.

It has been just over a year since Saadiya’s trip so she was delighted when she and the rest of her team received an email updating her on her patient’s (Patience’) status. Here is the note they received:

“Dear All, Dr. Julia is back in Liberia and just had a chance to see Patience, the 5 year old Liberian that so many of you helped - who had brain surgery in Nigeria last year.

From Dr. Julia: ‘Despite a few problems (behavioral and seizures) she is doing extraordinarily well!!! She is alive, walking around, talking, and a very sweet little 6yo girl. On my first day here, the family came to the hospital and waited for me an entire day in front of the emergency room. When I came out, Patience ran into my arms...I’ve attached a picture, I took them out for lunch that afternoon.’ See the attached photo. Thank you all for your extraordinary help! Mending Kids - you can definitely put this one in your WIN category! My Very Best, - Cori”

Don’t Miss Docs for Tots
Don’t miss the next Docs for Tots meeting on Thursday, March 29th at 6:00pm. This will be their annual “dinner with pediatricians” and they are hoping for as many faculty and local pediatricians can you identify from this class picture of 2004?

Superbowl Bash
Several of the residents and their friends and families got together on Superbowl Sunday to eat football-shaped cupcakes and watch the Patriots get beat by the Giants. Ashley was purportedly the only Giants fan at the party. Tri was apparently unaware that his team wasn’t even playing this year. But a good time was had by all.

March Is Child Life Month
See UpstateOnline for full schedule of events at:

Our Generous Community
Upstate Online recently reported that in 2011 alone, more than $300,000 in unrestricted donations were made by the CNY community and Upstate fundraising events to patient care programs, services and pediatric research at the Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital, according to the Foundation for Upstate Medical University. Thank you to our generous community for your support. You can read the full story on Upstate Online at:
http://upstateonline.info/static/Feb2-Feb92012/blog/story-1/index.html

Don’t Forget – Match Day is Friday, March 16th this year. The Pediatric list will be available at 1 PM.

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month
By Lisa Blystone
The Pediatric Star-of-the Month is Tri Nguyen for helping out his colleagues in so many different ways on so many different occasions! Tri - your unselfishness is truly appreciated. Please check in with Patty Mondore (4-5800) or Lisa Blystone (4-7600) to pick out your prize from the Stars treasure chest.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS
3/7 Christy Tabarani
3/12 Saleh Bhar
3/13 Dan Kveselis
3/15 Robert Kanter
3/19 Nader Atallah
3/20 Maureen Butler
3/25 Ann Botash
3/29 Rajoo Thapa