Moving Pictures

In his weekly newsletter, Dr. Welch mentioned the documentary movie that a group of SU students from the Newhouse School have done about Dr. Henry Roane, Heather Kadey, and the Family Behavior Analysis Clinic. He noted that there were a couple of other groups from Newhouse doing stories about the GCH including one that he was interviewed for. As he noted, “but it is hard to imagine any that turn out better than this one.”

Here is a link to that movie: https://docs.google.com/open?id=0BxErQ0EDvQMjI4YzlwYTgtODkxN C00NGY0LWE2NTItZjljNWMwODNm

Dr. Roane’s work was also covered recently in an article in the Post Standard.

The Crier has since learned that the documentary was created by three SU freshmen, Mary O’Connell, Samantha Schoen, and Erika Wegener for a course they were taking – COM 117: Multimedia Storytelling under the leadership of Course Instructor, Bruce Strong, Assoc Prof at Newhouse – which is a requirement for all Newhouse students to take their freshman year.

The Crier asked Samantha what prompted them to choose Dr. Roane’s clinic for their project. Samantha told the Crier, “We found out about the clinic through an article we read in the Post-Standard while trying to find an interesting subject to document for a non-fiction piece. We found his story and work really interesting and just thought that it was a story that needed to be told. Everyone at the clinic was so accommodating and just incredible to work with, even though they were nervous and hesitant. It makes sense though because here we are, little college freshman, asking to come in and document the work that they do. Dr. Roane, Ms. Kadey and Dr. Doyle are unbelievable and the work that they do is so inspiring. It was an amazing experience to be able to document the work they do.”

When asked what he thought of their production, Dr. Roane commented that the students did an awesome job. “I am a proponent of getting the word out, not about me and my wife, and the work we do, but about these kids – getting their story out. That’s what I liked about the video. This is what people need to see. The media tends to show the higher functioning side of autism in their documentaries. This is not the real story. The video shows the other side of autism. People need to understand how difficult “these behavior problems and the struggles that these family have really are…they can’t even go to the grocery store…things we take for granted.”

He added that it is not like the parents of these children did anything to deserve this. For example, one of the children in the movie was a girl who had been adopted from China. They had no idea, when they adopted her, what kind of difficulties they would have to face. One can only imagine what the adopted child’s family goes through every day. Dr. Roane shared a typical conversation he had with one of his patients’ families: “I remember talking to the grandfather of one of the kids who said, ‘All I want in the world is for my grandson to be able to talk.’”

It is for the children and families like these that Dr. Roane has dedicated his career to helping. Judging from what we have seen so far, he and his team are doing just that.

In addition to the movie about the Autism Clinic here is another excellent project done by one of the Newhouse students (Marie Claudet) featuring the education program at GCH.
https://nccnews.expressions.syr.edu/?p=10463

Lots of Docs for Tots

Nkechi Chuke

The Docs for Tots club here at SUNY Upstate Medical University sponsored the Pediatric Physician-Student Dinner that was held on the evening of Wednesday, March 30, 2011. The purpose of the dinner was to provide an opportunity for students with an interest in a pediatric specialty to interact with pediatric physicians in a relaxed setting. We were amazed that 16 physicians from different pediatric specialties attended the dinner. The specialties that were represented included General Pediatrics, Nephrology, Neonatology, Cardiology, Infectious Disease, Endocrinology, Hematology and Oncology, Genetics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Emergency Medicine.

The Keynote Speaker for the dinner event was Dr. Thomas Welch, Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Welch gave a very engaging, informational and
I am back and safe. The situation was beyond my imagination. I don’t think I was fully prepared. I have never seen anything like it even though I thought I had seen many things in my life. So many lives are lost and missing. It was like a nightmare that we could not awake from.

First, I was very impressed by how everyone there acted after the disaster. There was no looting, stealing, or violence, only cooperation. People helped and respected one another in crowded evacuation facilities, even though many of them had lived in large houses. Everyone was all crammed up in gymnasiums with no real privacy. There were tens of thousands of evacuated people throughout the area near the capital city called Sendai. Most evacuation facilities were schools but some were temples. They can accommodate many people and many of them were structurally intact. (However, I heard a story about an elementary school where about 70 percent of students and most teachers were killed by the tsunami.)

I worked in one of the evacuation places, a middle school called Hashigami Middle School. There were close to 600 evacuees there, mostly elderly and some families with children. I saw some children with problems such as falling asleep and constipation. Upper respiratory infections, seasonal allergy symptoms, suspected flu, and acute gastroenteritis were common in children. I also saw many adult patients with hypertension and diabetes. Treating adults was a challenge but I tried my best with a little help from my colleagues.

The situation and the things that people need are changing day by day. Now, there isn’t much of a need for acute emergency care as opposed to the need for chronic care, especially for elderly. Mental health specialists are also in great demand now. Many people including children are suffering from PTSD from obvious reasons such as loss of significant others, live stock, jobs, homes, etc. (well, technically it is too early to call it PTSD, but in this case, early intervention will not hurt, I believe).

People are working to rebuild the infrastructure there. The American army and the Japanese self-defense army are both trying to clean up the huge mess so that they can start building new facilities and homes. Surviving local physicians and nurses are trying their best to start clinics and hospitals, but currently most hospitals and clinics are operated by volunteers from other parts of Japan. Also, they are trying to move evacuees away from schools so that kids can go back to school. Not an easy task but I feel that they will accomplish it. However, I imagine it will take easily over 10 years to get back to the way things were before.

Here are some of the pictures. I think this tells more story than my poor writing (more online).

Thank you, Shinpei, for sharing your story and your pictures with us. Hopefully it will help us remember to keep the people of Japan in our thoughts and prayers as they attempt to rebuild their lives.

The Walter W Tunnessen Jr Visiting Professorship

On April 4-5, the Department of Pediatrics had the privilege of having Anthony Mancini, M.D., Head, Div of Pediatric Dermatology, Children’s Memorial Hospital, Prof of Peds and Derm, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL as our Visiting Professor. The Walter W. Tunnessen, Jr. Visiting Professorship is awarded to only two programs across the country annually by the AAP Section on Dermatology. It was thanks to the efforts of Dr. John Crier, page 2
Andrake that our department applied and won the 2011 award. The professorship was named after Dr. Walter Tunnessen, who the AAP describes as “a consummate educator and clinician who devoted much of his career to teaching about skin disorders in children and adolescents. The intent of the visiting professorship named in his honor is to bring an expert in pediatric dermatology to pediatric residency programs to enhance education about dermatologic disease.” Dr. Tunnessen was also a former Chair of the Department of Pediatrics here at Upstate. Everyone greatly appreciated Dr. Mancini’s excellent talks, rounds, one-on-one conversations and insights into dermatological issues.

Welcome Baby Aadya
April began with the birth of Aadya Kaul Singh on 4/1/11. Priyanka told the Crier, “Just wanted to share the good news with everyone. It’s been the two most tiring days of my life but absolutely worth all the effort....worth every ounce of the 9 pounds and 7 ounces and 21 inches of her.” Congratulations, Priyanka!

Right-Sizing
Our own Dr. Ran Anbar recently appeared in the Post Standard offering an explanation for his dramatic weight loss. You can read the full article online:

Heart-Walking
Lisa Kozma
Guess who got a VIP Badge at the Heart Walk on April 16th?!!!! Our own Dr. Nelsen did, for raising over $500! She has actually raised almost $1500 for the Heart Walk with the help of her mother. Beth tells the Crier, “Most of the money was raised at my mom's 60th birthday party. In lieu of gifts she had people donate to the American Heart Association by sponsoring me. She had a box set up at the party that people put checks and cash in.” Dr. Nelsen was allowed to go into the VIP tent where she was pampered with massage, drink and food along with the other luxuries after running 5K for a very good cause (close to her own heart, as well). Beth tells the Crier, “I ran. I froze my you-know-what off. I got a massage in the VIP tent. The best part? Meeting Jared the Subway Guy!” (pictured below) Congratulations, Dr. Nelsen. You deserved it!

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month
By Lisa Blystone
The Pediatric All-Star for the month is Barb Delaney for helping a colleague learn a new system. Barb spend several hours at UHCC showing the ropes of the new Amion call scheduling system to Robin Jodoin. Robin really appreciated Barb's help! Barb - please contact Lisa Blystone to pick out your prize from the stars treasure chest.

MAY BIRTHDAYS
5/2 Matt Mittiga
5/6 Ahmad Rayes
5/7 Sue Stred,
5/8 Asalim Thabet
5/9 Ran Anbar,
5/10 Tim Hatch,
5/11 Chris Lopez,
5/12 Sherri Clarry,
5/14 Zafir Soltan,
5/15 Dave Sadowitz,
5/18 Debby Carlson
5/20 Lou Pellegrino
5/23 Ellen Bifano
5/27 Jaclyn Sisskind
5/28 Boura’a Bou Aram
5/30 Priyanka Kaul