Pediatrics Welcomes Melissa Schafer
We are pleased to introduce our new pediatric hospitalist to you:

Hello! I am happy to be returning to Syracuse, and excited to meet all of you. I have been away from Syracuse many years so this is a homecoming for me. I graduated from Jamesville DeWitt High School, and my parents still live in DeWitt. They are very pleased to have us back as well, of course, mostly so they can dote on their grandkids. After JD I went to the University at Buffalo where I swam, majored in Biology and stayed on for medical school. After medical school I did my residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

I enjoy pediatrics and hospital medicine and I am happy to continue to be able to continue to practice and grow and learn here in Syracuse. One of my particular interests is asthma, child advocacy and how societal factors impact disease control. I think we as a medical community should continue to explore and implement ways for us as a community of people to take care of and improve conditions for our kids with asthma, as well as other chronic diseases.

I am happily married to Rick, my college sweetheart, who is a teacher and a basketball coach. He'll be coaching the girls basketball team at Marcellus starting this winter. (Go Mustangs!) We have two beautiful girls, Madeline and Jocelyn, who are 3 and 1 respectively. They are very lively, cute and take up all of our time and attention.

Both Rick and I are happy to be living in Upstate NY, we love the four seasons and believe that this is a great place to raise a family. I particularly love to ski, swim, bike, sew, sled and play with my kids. I look forward to meeting all of you soon!

We warmly welcome Dr. Schafer and look forward to having her on the team!

New Faculty Reception
Speaking of new faculty, don’t forget the new faculty reception on Thursday, November 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Stickley Museum in Manlius. Faculty who will be honored at this reception include: Olamide Ajagbe, MD – Peds Hospitalist Matthew Egan, MD – Peds Cardiology Courtney DuMond, PhD – Clin. Psychol Derek Gorski, DO – Upstate Pediatrics Erin Hanley, MD - Peds Emerg Med Jonathan Riddell, MD – Peds Urology Caitlin Sgarlat, DO – Peds Rheumatology Melissa Schafer, MD – Peds Hospitalist

The Peds GI Conference
Archie Ramaswani
I had the honor of attending the 5th Annual CNY Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Conference held at Tradition at the Links Golf Course in East Syracuse on Saturday October 1st.

All 3 sessions of this conference were moderated by our own Drs. Karjoo, Beg and Wali. Dr. Rivera presented a very informative talk on TPN in short gut children and Dr. Wali presented a very interesting case. Another visiting faculty member was our former resident Dr. Cary Qualia (now GI attending physician at Albany Medical Center). In addition we were honored to have Dr. Jay Popp, Professor of Medicine, Director of Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, University of South Carolina and Dr. Mark Glassman, Professor of Pediatric Gastroenterology at Westchester Medical Center.

Presentations included T.P.N. in Short Gut Syndrome, Eosinophilic Esophagitis and Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Children, Pediatric Allergy, Crohn’s Disease Management and Osteoporosis / Osteopenia in Eosinophilic Esophagitis.

This conference was a good learning experience for me with a great opportunity to interact with outside faculty with a wide range of their research interests. Another event of interest was 34th Annual Gastroenterology Teaching Day, held on Thursday, October 13 in Binghamton, NY, with keynote speaker Dr. Mirza Beg.

I will advise my colleagues and fellow residents to attend these local
events as they are excellent source of updated information for all of us.

Photographs: Courtesy of Dr. Beg.

LEAPPing to DC
Elizabeth Nelsen, M.D.
LEAPP went on the road again, this time to Washington, DC for Pediatric Educational Excellence Across the Continuum (PEEAC) Meeting from 9/9-9/10. This was a meeting staged by APA, APPD, COMSEP, and CoPS. It was a very informative meeting with a number of different pediatricians from different parts of the country engaged in and interested in resident, student and fellow education. I received a great deal of positive feedback about my paper and was able to make some connections with folks from different programs including a former fellow chief resident! Steve de waal Malefyt is an attending in the outpatient dept. at Albany Med. He is responsible for the medical student education in his clinic. He sends everyone his best. And as Dr. Andrake said, “What a shock, Nelsen's at a baseball game.” I made it to my third MLB game of the year. Apparently I am bad luck - none of the teams I saw this year made it to the playoffs. There's always next year.

Ronald McDonald Honors Dr. Smith
Our own Pediatric Cardiologist, Frank Smith, M.D. was the guest-of-honor at the 10th Annual Ronald McDonald House Homecoming Party on Saturday, October 15th “for his extraordinary compassion, tireless commitment to helping children and their families, and his invaluable role as an advocate, partner and friend of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York”. As part of the evening’s program quotes and testimonials from some of the many families, patients and colleagues who have benefitted from Dr. Smith’s compassionate care and tireless dedication were read. Congratulations, Frank!

All’s Well that Endos Well
Congratulations to Dr. Irene Sills who was recently named “Chair of the Section on Endocrinology” at the American Academy of Pediatrics. When asked if she would be willing to comment on her new title, Dr. Sills told the Crier, “My comment: To all of you who are wondering if you should become a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I say “YES”. It is the one organization that represents the best interests of all children and adolescents. It has always been my professional companion and a place for advocating for our youth.”

Intern Retreat
The annual intern retreat was held on October 6-7 at Stella Maris Retreat Center on Skaneateles Lake. They first enjoyed spending some time together on Thursday night. They had dinner at Joe's Pasta Garage where they ran into Dr. Brad Olson having dinner with his family. Nandita got a chocolate cake from Biscotti's for all the people who had birthdays in October. Before going back to Stella Maris for the night they hung out at a local bar and watched Aamer and Marwan try to arm wrestle each other (no winner was reported). The next morning breakfast included a traditional Lebanese dish that Lina helped make (which was reportedly quite “yummy”). Drs. Kennedy and Andrake then arrived for fun activities which, once again, included tossing eggs off of the roof of a building. The goal was to see if any of the teams could keep their egg from breaking. Dr. Andrake did the honor of dropping the eggs (hurling might be more appropriate) but, alas, none of the eggs survived the fall. It was obvious from the pictures that several of the
residents found this deeply disturbing. To help compensate for their grief, they sought comfort in ice cream. As photojournalist Jenny Lin explains, “…we all walked over to explore the adorable town of Skaneateles and grab ice cream there…It was so nice to be able to spend time with each other for those two days. It was time well spent.” One of interns commented that what they like best about the program so far is each other.

**Pediatric Ironmen**

*As reported by Matt McGraw*

The Syracuse 70.3 took place on Sunday, September 18th, 2011. A challenging and nationally known event that has brought the triathlon craze to Upstate New York. This was the second year for Syracuse to host the event. The event consists of three sports: swimming, cycling and running with distances of 1.2 miles, 56 miles, and 13.1 miles. The day begins with a swim at Jamesville Beach Park before athletes take on a one-loop bike course that offers rolling hills and beautiful scenery through Syracuse and Highland Forest Park. The run course leads athletes around the Hamlet of Jamesville with a finish at Jamesville Beach Park.

I first met Dr. D after the Green Lakes Triathlon in early June of this year. Green Lakes is a much smaller 'sprint triathlon' that is about 1/3 the distance of the 70.3. Dr. D suggested competing as a team for the 70.3, which was a great idea considering my strength is swimming and his is running. He also knew a great cyclist and environmental engineer, Edward Keplinger, from the local YMCA who rounded out our strong team.

Overall, the whole day was a great experience. The water was a bit cold (62 degrees!), especially without a wetsuit, but by mid day the sun was shining with ideal weather for the bike and run. Our team, Team MattEdJoe, finished 5th overall with a time of 5 hours and 16 minutes. Dr. D said he was glad to have me on the team because there was no way he'd be able to do the swim, but I truly felt I got the better end of the deal considering the swim is only 30 minutes long while the bike is 2.5 hours and the run is 1 hour and 55 minutes (one of Dr. D's best times for a half marathon)! Dr. Domachowski's wife, Mary Beth, also had a phenomenal team of women who completed the full course.

I tried to convince a few other residents to compete, but unfortunately it was a little late in the season. Hopefully the picture and story will generate some friendly competition in the Upstate Community for next year's event, which has been moved to June 24th, 2012! Thanks again for all the congrats and praise. Regards, Matt McGraw

**1st Annual Pumpkin Contest Winners Announced**

1st place: "Toy Story" by Andy Butchko, from Unit 11E
2nd place: "Cinderella's Discharge Coach" by Case Management and Utilization Review
3rd Place: "Penguin and Igloo" by Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Runners Up: Cookie Monster, Manny the Mole, and Peanuts

Pumpkin Patch. Sarah Irish will contact winners with prizes. Thank you to all who participated and came to visit!

**More Running News**

Less than a month later, on October 18th several Pediatricians again hit the streets in Syracuse’s first Empire State Marathon. Anne Sveen ran the full Marathon taking 325th place out of 706 male and female runners. Steve Blatt, Joe Domachowske, and Chris Hodkinson completed the half Marathon. Over 2000 runners competed. Congratulations to all four of ours!

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

*By Lisa Blystone*

The Pediatric Star-of-the-Month is Sarah Irish for all of the work that she has done, most of it with her own two hands, to make sure that the resident library in the Children's Hospital is clean and neat. Sarah, you redefine what it means to be a star! Please contact Patty Mondore (4-5800) or Lisa Blystone (4-7600) to pick out your star prize.

**Future Pediatricians**

Congratulations to Angela Periccozzi (MS-IV) on the birth of baby boy Gabriel Alan who arrived on September 29th at 9lbs 4oz! Mom and baby are doing well, and by the time you read this, mom will be interviewing here in pediatrics.

**In the News**


**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11/1 Irene Cherrick
11/8 Joe D., Manika S.
11/9 Regina McConnell
11/15 Jay Peacock
11/20 Mirza Beg
11/29 Stephanie Hung