



Pediatric Crier

Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

<http://www.upstate.edu/gch/academics/newsletter.php>

Make Me a Match!

We are excited to announce that six of our third year residents matched in this year's very competitive fellowship match on December 12th:

Jake Andersen – Peds Critical Care – Rochester, NY

Tim Bright – Peds ED, Upstate

Sashi Goteti – Peds Heme-Portland, OR

Ripal Patel – Peds Critical Care, Univ of Maryland

Max Shenberger – Neonatology - NY Med College.

Ryan Surujdeo – Peds ED, Detroit, MI

Kim Wells – Peds ED, Upstate

Congratulations to each of you!

Honoring Our PICU Nurses

Each year at the annual departmental holiday party, a particular group or individual is selected for special recognition. The pediatric ICU nurses were the recipients of the 2018 Outstanding Service Award given annually by the Department of Pediatrics in conjunction with the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. Winners are selected "for going above and beyond in providing quality service to the hospital, its employees, our patients and their families". Erin Shortslef, RN, the nurse manager for the PICU, accepted the award on behalf of all of the nurses at the party on December 13. These unsung heroes received a certificate of appreciation for their service and the promise of a well-deserved pizza party! Congratulations and thank you, PICU nurses!

The 2018 Scott Carter Award

Congratulations to each of the 2018 Scott Carter Award winners: Gail Nolan, Casey Aaserud, Amy



Barber and Jocelyn Kladek. The Award is presented each year to a SUNY Upstate pediatric hematology/oncology nurse who demonstrates compassion, dedication, knowledge and commitment to pediatric hematology and oncology nursing. Congratulations, ladies!

A visit from Senator Schumer

Dr. Travis Hobart

Shortly before Thanksgiving, the Central and Eastern New York Lead Poisoning Resource Center received word that Senator Schumer was planning a visit to Upstate. He was interested in getting increased federal housing funds directed to the city of Syracuse. Several years ago, the city failed in its reapplication for federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds to abate lead hazards in local homes. The failure was due to a minor technicality, but it left Syracuse as one of the only cities in New York state without its own funding. Senator Schumer hoped to get the funding reinstated and increase overall funding to the region.

Upon receiving an email from our legislative office telling us about the visit three days away, we were in a bind because Dr. Weinberger would be out of town and I was scheduled with patients all day in Baldwinsville. Fortunately, my colleagues at Upstate Pediatrics were able to cover me for a few hours to make it to this exciting event. We had been asked to describe the scope of the problem of lead poisoning in Syracuse and why it was so concerning. On the day of the event, I arrived a few minutes early and found a number of friendly faces in the room, including Drs. Botash and Blatt, and our coordinator, Maureen Butler, without whom the Center would not work (and whom we will miss dearly after her retirement in January). A number of our community allies from the Community Foundation and Home Headquarters were also part of the event.

Once the Senator arrived, the press conference began quickly. I was pleased to find that he and his staff had done their homework. He was remarkably well-versed on the problems of lead poisoning and the details about Syracuse. While this was great to hear, it also stressed me a bit – he had managed to say half of what I was planning to say. I resorted to saying the other half, and still somehow forgot to say a couple things in the excitement of it all. The main message is this:



pediatricians can and should screen for lead poisoning, but by then it's too late. What's really needed is safe housing so that children don't get exposed in the first place.

Since the Senator's visit, we have heard three exciting things. First, the Senator was pleased with the event. Second, it worked! [Syracuse.com reported](http://www.syracuse.com) in early December that HUD is going to provide \$4.1 million to Syracuse to restart the program, thanks to the advocacy from Senator Schumer and Representative Katko. Third, in a related development, we have recently heard that the federal government has a [new plan](#) to address lead exposure. While certainly not perfect, the plan includes recognition of the continued problem of lead poisoning and goals of limiting exposure, improving screening, and educating the public.

This past year has seen several positive developments in children's environmental health. We have built some great partnerships with community organizations and been excited to see new funding for home repairs and lead abatement come to Syracuse, both from the federal government, and from the local Community Foundation ([which committed \\$2 million in October](#)). In addition, it was the first full year of our new grant on Children's Environmental Health, a sister grant to the Lead Poisoning grant from the state Department of Health. That new grant has funded a series of telehealth sessions to help educate doctors on environmental health hazards, and will fund other programs expected to begin in the coming years. The Children's Environmental Health grant has also helped to spur improved asthma care for high risk patients locally, through another grant-funded partnership, run by Drs. Nimeh and Pinnamaneni, between Upstate Pediatric and Adolescent Center, Home Headquarters, and the Onondaga County Health Department. We are excited to see all these developments and look forward to more excitement in 2019.

AAP: Karen Teelin

Last month we reported on several members of the department who attended this year's AAP conference. We learned that Dr. Karen Teelin was there, as well, and tells the Crier: "I was an invited speaker for the Section on Adolescent Health. It was an incredible honor, and great to meet so many national colleagues. The talk was well-received, and for that I would like to thank the residents who suffered through listening to it beforehand and helped me hone it!"

The \$8000 Hair Cut

Congratulations and thanks to Dr. Joe Nimeh who raised almost \$8000 for the Cancer Center through the generous donations of those who sponsored Joe's total head shaving in mid-December. Here is the "backstory" of this exciting event: "When I trained in pediatrics at Upstate, I worked on the kids heme/onc floor. What I saw happening there every day was inspiring beyond words, and hard in ways that (fortunately) most of us will never have to imagine. Now, I have patients battling cancer (at this moment), and I want to help in whatever way I can. So I'm asking for your help, and I'm willing to chop off my own hair to get it." We are thankful to all those who thought Joe's hair (and our cancer patients) were worth so much to them.



Read more at [UpstateOnline](#)

Aamer-ican Board Certified

Congratulations to Dr. Aamer Imdad who sent us the following: "This is to share the happy news that I recently appeared and passed the board exam for nutrition under National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists. I also attached copies of two of my recent publications." It was indeed a great month for Aamer.

The Annual Housestaff Holiday Party

The residents and several attendings had their annual housestaff/faculty holiday party on December 20th and it will probably go down in history as one of the more memorable celebrations. In addition to tons of great food, and the craziest of holiday sweaters, the chiefs put together a



"Family Feud" style game guessing all kinds of interesting but previously undiscovered facts about various faculty and residents. The winning team was Team Ajagbe, Baluta, Gopalakrishnan, Kandeepan, Lenehan, Maierhoffer, Silkey, and Wratney. Congratulations, team!

It should be noted that for at least 50% of the interesting facts, people were guessing it was Rohan. It was later learned that Rohan's interesting fact never even made it into the list. Not to exclude him from the list of potentially blackmailable factoids, here it is, in this Crier exclusive (warning – adult content alert): "I used to take big black ants and crush them into my teeth."



Also, by popular demand, we are including the link to Carlee's interesting fact. She had been featured on a rap video. You can view her outstanding performance at: <https://youtu.be/DBdr8F52tjk>
The other new talent discovery was Max Burchman's first pre-Hollywood movie debut entitled, "The 12 Hours of Nightshift" featuring many up and coming celebrities. The all-star production and cast can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/5oZ1ayT1bLs>

Ugly Sweater Playoffs

There were so many "ugly" sweaters at this year's holiday party that the Crier was asked to have our readership vote to determine the winner. Three particularly ...unique sweaters made the finals. Please reply to mondorep@upstate.edu and **let us know which of the three finalists gets your vote:**

Ugly Sweater #1:



Ugly Sweater #2:



Ugly Sweater #3



Your vote counts!

Seeing Double

In case you missed it, there were also two sets of twins at the holiday party:



Sara and Rohan go for the Gold

From the Curriculum Office:

In efforts to monitor positive influences on the learning environment within the College of Medicine, the Curriculum Office website has a "Gold Star" function that allows faculty, students and staff to highlight individuals who have enhanced their experience on campus. We would like to congratulate you for receiving the following acknowledgment from a student:

Sara Batool: "During downtime at clinic, Sara took time to teach the medical students about some of the ins and outs of residency. We talked about life, and she offered us some solid advice. She consistently treats the medical students as peers and colleagues and makes us feel welcome, and her example is a great one to follow."



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Rohan Akhouri: "Rohan is one of the nicest residents I have ever worked with. On our very first day of Pediatrics, he was quick to encourage us to take our educations seriously and to dive right in. He even took time out of his busy day to print out reference reading for the students. He is a prime example of excellence in the educational environment."

Congratulations, Sara and Rohan!

El Salvador 2019

Moshe Roberts

Dear all, I will be heading back down to rural El Salvador in February alongside Joe Domachowske, Brooke Fraser, Jasmin Moradi (graduated last year!) and many others to volunteer our time with the YoungLife group to make a difference in a village called Rancho Grande. Young life is a group which allows local teenagers from Syracuse to travel down to El Salvador during their spring break to both learn about a completely different culture as well as work on multiple projects developed throughout the last 12 years including construction projects, painting and the medical/dental clinic. We will hold free medical clinics (for all ages, not just children) in Rancho Grande. Our team includes a dentist, optometrist and this year we will be the pediatrics representatives (along with Becky Potter from Child Healthcare Associates). I am writing to ask for your help with gathering supplies including:

- basic school supplies (paper, pencils, crayons, calculators, highlighters, glue)
- basic hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste)
- over the counter medications except ibuprofen
- gently used glasses- both readers and prescription
- medical supplies: First Aid (Band-Aids, antibiotic ointment, Ace wraps, braces, splints), blood glucose monitors with strips or if you prefer, checks made out to Young Life (none of the money goes to Young Life itself, it is all used for the trip and donations are tax deductible)

You can drop contributions off with Patty in the Pediatrics office on the 5th floor of University Hospital or email me directly and I'm happy to come pick them up! Deadline is February 1st. To learn more about Young life and the trip to El Salvador, you can visit www.visitbajolempa.com.

Thank you in advance for all your consideration, support and generosity! Moshe (PGY3) & the Pediatrics team



In the News: The GCH Barista

The Syracuse Post-Standard Empire magazine did a feature story on the Café Kubal at the GCH and, specifically, Kaylee Trinca, who is one of the workers at Café GCH. It is a lovely article and the online version has a video of Kaylee describing her work at the GCH.

https://www.syracuse.com/living/index.ssf/2018/11/baristas_at_cafe_kubal_at_upstate_goli_sano_childrens_hospital_serve_more_than_c_o.html

The Wedding

Most (?) of you probably heard about the highly publicized wedding of Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas (from the Jonas Brothers). Why should the Crier readers care? We are glad you asked! Crier readers should care because one our first year residents is Priyanka's cousin and was at the wedding (you can confirm this with the residents he talked into switching shifts with him. In a Crier exclusive Rohan shared a few pictures with conclusive proof that he was, indeed, there at the wedding.



The Other Wedding

Meanwhile, much closer to home, and with a few less celebrities, our very own Elizabeth Paulsen tied the knot to Andrew Lodge on September 22nd at Onondaga Lake Park. While not yet world renowned, there were several very familiar faces who joined Elizabeth and Andrew in their celebration. We wish this beautiful couple the very best!



One Last Round of Ugly Sweaters

The intern class had their own secret santa and ugly Christmas sweater party in December, no doubt in practice for the resident/faculty party.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/4 Bob Hingre
1/11 Timothy Bright
1/13 John Andrake
1/20 John Friedman
1/25 Nienke Dosa