



Pediatrics Welcomes Dr. Heidi Ochs

We are excited to welcome our new hospitalist, Heidi Ochs, who shares the following:



I am delighted to be joining the pediatric hospital medicine department here at Upstate Golisano Children's hospital. It feels like *deja vu* being in upstate New York. I started my academic career in Rochester, completing my undergraduate degree at the University of Rochester. This is where I became aware of a secret gem of Upstate New York... Wegman's. From Rochester, I went to Philadelphia and obtained a master of public health from Drexel University. My focus at that time was on domestic violence and HIV identification. After my time in Philadelphia, it was onto Erie, PA to start my medical education at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. From Erie it was on to Cleveland, where I completed my residency at the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, followed by a Chief Residency year.

While my love of Wegmans and the Finger Lakes made coming to Syracuse a welcomed next chapter, it was my husband that was really the driving force. He has been a part of SUNY for almost 4 years and while it may have taken even longer, we are finally able to be in the same city.

I look forward to meeting and working with everyone here at Golisano.

Welcome Back Dr. Aamer Imdad

We are excited to welcome back Dr. Aamer Imdad who has joined our Peds GI faculty in August. He will also be involved in the Upstate Center for Global Health since this has been a passion of his for most of his life. Aamer completed his residency here in 2014 and went on to do his GI training at Vanderbilt. He has already been named to a 3-year term on the research committee at NASPGHAN. Aamer shares the following:

"It is great to join the faculty in the Department of Pediatrics at SUNY

Upstate Medical University where I completed my residency from 2011-14. We stayed in Nashville, TN for 3 years to complete my fellowship in Gastroenterology and MPH degree at Vanderbilt University.

My research interests are in Global Health with a focus on gastrointestinal infections and micronutrients deficiencies in children. I have worked for WHO and Gates foundation in the past.

We have a 4 year old son, Shahzain Ali, and a 4 months old daughter, Zarmeen Ali,... I love Zarmeen more than Shahzain and my wife, Uzma, has no comment about this controversy.

We are enjoying the brief and beautiful summer in Syracuse. I look forward to meeting my teachers and all the new people who joined the department recently and I feel ready to take your consults on THAT belly pain!!!



Project I-SCRN

Congratulations to our team at UPAC who were recently notified that they were selected to participate in the American Academy of Pediatrics' Project I-SCRN. The Physician Champion/MOC Leader is our very own Dr. Jenica O'Malley. Jenica tells the Crier:

"Hello everyone! As pediatricians, one of our greatest honors is being experts in child development and we are learning more and more how important the first 3 years of brain development are for a person's long term outcomes. As both a parent and a pediatrician, development has always been a great interest of mine. When the AAP sent out a call for applications to participate in a quality improvement project and learning collaborative aimed at improving developmental, social emotional and social determinants of health screening project I jumped at the opportunity and UPAC was lucky enough to be invited to participate in

the project, in addition to being awarded a small financial stipend to support our efforts.

The project is called Project I-SCRN, aka Improving Screening, Connections with families and Referral Networks. My team consists of myself, a parent partner, Joyce Baker (one of our lovely nurse practitioners) and Jason Corlis (for now!). The project aims to improve adherence to AAP screening recommendations as well as improving follow up and successful referrals. We participate in monthly webinars with practices from all over the country and have already started making some small incremental changes at UPAC. Goals going forward include forming stronger relationships with community agencies in order to provide our patients with "warm hand-offs" when we are making referrals for positive screens, implementing Edingburgh Postnatal Depression screening and improving our ability to screen and then refer for social-determinants of health (which is a very hot topic in medicine these days). By improving our screening and referral processes, we hope to be delivering a higher quality of care and developing stronger relationships with our patients.

This is a year long project and actually quite involved. We were able to go to Chicago in July to participate in a training session and will head back in March for another weekend. It was amazing to see the great things being done around the country to support children and families and reassuring that many of us are struggling with similar roadblocks and difficulties. Anyone who is interested in participating, or has suggestions for changes in our processes is definitely encouraged to contact me - we can use any and all help.

Hopefully midway through the project we can provide you all with an update and include some of our data collection. We've actually had one small success already - we are going to start a routine 30 month well child visit at UPAC which will allow us to be 100% compliant with AAP recommendations for developmental screening!! Woo hoo!

Hope you all enjoy the last fleeting days of summer. Attached is a picture of our team in Chicago in July!"



MOA's and Bees

The Pediatric Specialty Services had two of their staff receive special recognition over the past few months. Thanks to Nicole Hanas RN, MSN who shared the following: "Stephanie Maturo, won the Bee award in July. She is an MOA in the peds surgery clinic



Kelley Baker was recognized for her time and attendance by Nancy Page. She started as an MOA in the peds nephrology, rheumatology & integrative medicine clinic in November of 2014 and has not called in a single time since!!" Congratulations, Stephanie and Kelley for these well deserved honors!

Harley Therapy

As a part of their weekly Wellness Wednesday series, the residents had a special guest (and his doctor) come to visit on 8/16. Dr. Stuart Trust and Harley (his long-haired dachshund) came and spent the hour with any of the residents who were available. Harley was passed around while Dr. Trust shared some of the joys of 40+ years of private practice. Everyone (including Harley) had a great noon-hour break!

Pictured below are Dr. Trust, Harley, and one of Harley's biggest fans, Sara Batool.



Solar Eclipse

In case you missed it, the Solar Eclipse took place all across the country on August 21st. While NYS did not have a full eclipse, Child Life made sure that the GCH kids all got to view the partial eclipse with their special solar eclipse glasses.



Of course, it wasn't just the kids who were out in front of the treehouse testing their glasses and taking in this amazing event.



Thanks to Kathleen Paice Froio for capturing this solar moment in time.

Donut Eclipse

Meanwhile, just down the street at UPAC, several of the staff and physicians came up with their own unique (low budget) way of viewing the eclipse. While it was definitely safe on the eyes, there is some question as to whether eating all of the contents of the box in order to use it as a viewer was a good idea.



Thanks to Phil Mackewicz for sharing the donuts (picture) with us.

Best Wishes, Jason



We were sad to learn that Jason Corlis will be leaving us, but excited to hear about what he will be doing. Dr. Blatt sent out the following announcement:

"Please join me in wishing Jason well as he leaves us on September 5 to enter the Court Officer Academy for a 4 month training to become a Court Officer. Jason has been a great friend and colleague. He has also been the primary staff member charged with keeping the Resident Continuity Clinic schedule accurate." We all appreciate all that Jason has done for UPAC and for the Pediatric Residents, and wish him the very best in his new career!

Jason tells the Crier, "Why am I becoming a Court Officer? I have always enjoyed the field of law enforcement. I have always wanted to do something within law enforcement, without being a police officer. I was a Corrections Officer several years ago,

but the timing in my life was not right. I came across the position of a Court Officer, and thought that it would be really interesting. It would fulfill two interests of mine, one being in the field of law enforcement, and secondly being in/around the court room. I have always enjoyed the law/legal field. I took business law classes in high school and college, and always found it intriguing. Now I get to do what my heart really wanted to do. I am looking forward to this new experience."

Jason, we wish you the best!

Outpatient Pediatrics

Former resident, Dany Curi sent the following picture of a recent exam he gave to a Syrian Refugee child who needed a doctor but was apparently too afraid to come to the office. Dany's response to that was, "When a child is too scared to come in your clinic...you take the clinic to the child".



Photo Caption Contest

Last month one of our readers had submitted a picture of two of our residents and we offered a prize to whoever came up with the best caption for that picture. We have a winner!



"What ya lookin' at Ryan? Let me fix your tie. Gee! Your hair smells terrific!!!" – Sara Cesta, UPAC
Congratulations, Sara. There is a prize awaiting you at the Crier desk!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Lisa Blystone
9/4 Marie-Jose Moubarak
9/7 Megan Pinnamaneni
9/8 Sarah Au
9/10 Wendy Holz
9/17 Richard Tyler
9/28 Barb Delaney