A third location for our outreach clinics will be identified later next year. Tentatively, we are considering locations in the far northern reaches of our referral area. Check future issues of KidStuff for more information.

We have tried to match services we are offering in these clinics to those identified in our survey of providers. Unfortunately, there are some obvious requests which will take us a while longer to meet. For example, both child neurology and child psychiatry have been identified by our referring physicians as major needs for community-based programs. As you know, both of these are areas in which we are already stretched at the main campus. Until we are able to recruit additional providers, it will be difficult to establish outreach activity.

Our goal for all of these clinics is to offer the same level of care and expertise that our patients receive at the main campus. We hope to bring in some additional programs including pulmonology, hematology/oncology, and developmental pediatrics.

Once the Utica nephrology clinic is up and running, we hope referring physicians, seeking their input. Their report has formed the basis for a significant planned expansion of our satellite program.

Beginning this winter, a monthly clinic for children with urinary tract disorders will be operating in Utica, in cooperation with Faxton-St. Luke’s Medical Center. This clinic will be run by Scott Schurman, MD, vice chair for Clinical Affairs and director of our nephrology division. Dr. Schurman will evaluate children with the full range of urinary tract disorders. The location for this clinic, as well as the Utica phone number for appointments, had not been set at the time this issue of KidStuff went to press. Both should be available soon through the pediatric offices (315.464.5451).

Dr. Tom Welch, chair of the department and a pediatric nephrologist, has started another urinary tract disease clinic in Binghamton. This clinic is held in the pediatric outpatient clinic at Binghamton General Hospital on the first Tuesday of each month. Appointments can be made by calling (607.722.2468). This clinic joins our Binghamton pulmonology and genetics outreach clinics.
The Pediatric Emergency Department At University Hospital

What are the current demographics of the pediatric emergency department?
The Pediatric Emergency Department serves a twenty-four county region as the only dedicated Pediatric Emergency Department between Rochester and Vermont. We take care of nearly 19,000 patients per year ranging from birth to 18 years of age. Nearly 10 percent of our patients require admission to the hospital. On average we receive 8 ambulances per day and 10 referrals from private medical offices.

What physicians work in the Pediatric Emergency Department?
The Pediatric Emergency Department is directed by a staff of specialists who are board certified in Pediatric Emergency Medicine. These physicians, after completion of a residency program in pediatrics, have participated in a fellowship in the field of Pediatric Emergency Medicine. They are well published in the field of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, having performed numerous research within the specialty. In addition, board certified emergency physicians also staff the Pediatric Emergency Department. The attending staff is complemented by residents from the departments of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics.

What type of nurses work in the Pediatric Emergency Department?
We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated nursing professionals who have chosen pediatric emergency nursing as a career. They have taken specialty courses such as Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Advanced Pediatric Life Support (APLS), and Pediatric Emergencies for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP). In conjunction with our pediatric emergency physicians, specific treatment guidelines and protocols have been developed for use in the Pediatric Emergency Department.

How is the Pediatric Emergency Department designed for the care of children?
We realize that we are not only treating the child, but an entire family unit. The last child a wants to be is in the emergency department. We have available videogames, videocassettes, books, and siblings. In addition, for those children with lengthy stays, we have managed to secure snacks that are child friendly.

Pediatric Designated AIDS Center
“When I grow up, I want to be a ballerina and a doctor and an artist” were the words of Mary, age 5 years, when she spoke with her doctor shortly after being diagnosed as HIV infected. Although Mary is not a real name, she is a real child, born and raised in Central New York. Mary was fortunate to have remained healthy for her first five years of life in spite of having been HIV infected since birth. She also had the care and support of a loving and responsible family and she was treated in a facility that could provide state-of-the-art pediatric HIV care and access to clinical trials. Antiretroviral medications and careful monitoring for toxicities could allow Mary to remain healthy.

Mary had those lofty career plans 10 years ago, at a time when very few drugs were available (even through research studies) and what was available had limited ability to suppress virus. It was sobering to face this young/optimistic child who was planning an adult life, when the best medications available at that time were not likely to keep her healthy through high school.

Mary’s initial symptoms responded to treatment but her disease slowly progressed. She continued to receive care at the Pediatric HIV Care Center at University Hospital and in 1995, when highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) became available, she was able to change to a treatment regimen that completely suppressed her virus. She continues on HAART, she is healthy and a good student and will graduate from high school in a few years. She plans to plan for her adult life although her career plans are no longer so interesting! Mary is just one of many children and adolescents who have benefitted from receiving care at the renamed Pediatric Designated AIDS Center. This center is the only such provider in the 17 county Central New York region. Upstate Medical University has provided specialized care of children and adolescents with HIV for more than 10 years. The team includes five attending physicians, all board certified in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Doctors that evaluate treatment to interrupt perinatal HIV transmission, studies of new antiretroviral agents to determine their safety and effectiveness in children and studies of HIV vaccines in newborns and HIV infected children. Other studies completed or ongoing include evaluations of new HIV diagnostic tests and observational studies designed to determine long term complications of disease and therapy.

Recently, several children who had failed previous treatment regimens were able to participate in clinical trials of T-20, a drug which belongs to a totally new class of anti-HIV drugs, the fusion inhibitors. The children who participated in the study from Syracuse were among the first children in the world to receive the drug.

The center strives to provide access to the best available therapies and supportive care while working with others throughout the country to improve the care of HIV infected children. Our care providers participate on the regional, state and national level in the development of care guidelines, the education of care providers, and the evaluation of the newest strategies to prevent and treat the disease.

Now, when our young patients make plans for their adult life, we can share their optimism and excitement about the future.