E ach and every feeling I’ve ever had in my life — so many emotions,” said Khan, a PGY-3 who finishes her residency in June. “It was humbling, a source of joy, a source of sadness and depression. On the whole, it was very positive and it made me stronger.”

At JFK Medical Center, Khan was part of a rotating team of physicians from the United States, including Upstate pediatricians Bradley Olson MD and Steven Blatt MD.

She returned in early March, further resolved to pursue her career goal of working in pediatric hematology-oncology in a medically underserved area.

In Liberia, Khan relied heavily on her mantra, a quote from Brazilian poet Paulo Coelho: “And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.”

Normally soft-spoken and non-confrontational, Khan said there were situations in Liberia that required her to take swift and decisive action — or at the very least, to be blunt: “This is what I need and you have to help me out,” Khan said, quoting herself. “And they actually did!”

One of her patients, a 5-year-old girl with swelling on her brain, needed a CT scan, which JFK couldn’t do. Khan made some contacts, and an agency paid to fly the girl to Nigeria for the procedure. “People just chipped in the money,” Khan said. “They come up with the resources. People have an innate wish to help.”

The parents of her young patients — most of whom live in a nearby slum — were very appreciative as well, Khan said. The facilities at JFK are spartan at best, crowded and without the proper supplies and equipment. But the staff made do with what they had.

In an e-mail after another day of running the NICU at the hospital, Khan wrote, “It is an honor for us that they come to us for help. We should not take it in a casual manner.”

Khan learned soon enough that she couldn’t do everything, or save every patient, in her four weeks there. “I wanted to do everything, but it’s not for just one person to do it,” she said.

So Khan did whatever she could. She treated and helped many young patients — she calls them “friends” now when pointing them out in photographs — but there were the inevitable losses.

The tears of her young patients — most of whom live in a nearby slum — were very appreciative as well, Khan said. The facilities at JFK are spartan at best, crowded and without the proper supplies and equipment. But the staff made do with what they had.

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As some of you may know I have returned to the Graduate Medical Education Office after a hiatus of a few years. While much has remained the same, there have been some significant changes over the years.

The accreditation required for program credentialing has undergone significant restructuring and now requires more institutional oversight. Resident work hours and supervision have become a national discussion. There is a movement to graduated duty hours by year of training, such as the new restraints on intern work hours (no more than 16 hours on duty). Other changes are designed to improve patient care, supervision and resident well-being. There will also be an increased emphasis on resident direct involvement in quality studies and participation on appropriate departmental and institutional committees.

William Grant, EdD

Familiar Presence

Interim Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education

SUNY Upstate Medical University

The annual Resident and Fellow Appreciation Day featured the traditional offerings of bagels, juice, cake … and more cake.

Upstate sets aside one day per year to recognize our 480 residents and fellows and the exceptional service they provide, and many departments get into the spirit by providing lunch. Some even provided cake, as seen in this photo from Radiation Oncology featuring residents Varun Chowdhry, Spencer Ashdon, Aaron Hicks, Shipal Bhavsar and Paul Arigidi. Resident and Fellow Appreciation Day is presented by the Office of Graduate Medical Education, the President’s Office; the Dean’s Office of the College of Medicine; and Upstate University Hospital.

Dr. Grant sits on three editorial boards of journals and conducts statistical reviews for five journals. He is a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, a member of the American College of Legal Medicine and holds specialty and profession-specific association memberships. He serves as a faculty mentor to residents and fellows making this one of the most exciting jobs at Upstate.

William Grant, EdD
Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education

Assisting programs in implementing these standards, working with residents and fellows, and assisting faculty as they work to improve the educational experiences for residents and fellows makes this one of the most exciting jobs at Upstate.

In addition to the work in the GME office, I have faculty appointments in Emergency Medicine and in Family Medicine. Shortly after transitioning from the GME office the first time, I moved to Emergency Medicine for my primary responsibilities. In Emergency Medicine I work with faculty and residents to develop and implement their research endeavors; teach in our Evidence-based Emergency Medicine and in Family Medicine. Shortly after transitioning from the GME office the first time, I moved to Emergency Medicine for my primary responsibilities. In Emergency Medicine I work with faculty and residents to develop and implement their research endeavors; teach in our Evidence-based Emergency Medicine and in Family Medicine.

Henderson-Kendrick

Upstate GME Earns 5-Year Accreditation

SUNY Upstate Medical University

The Graduate Medical Education Office and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at Upstate presented the first “Beyond the Doctorate Research Day (Postdocs, Residents and Fellows)” on March 5 in Winklhorn Hall.

The day featured 18 platform presentations, a keynote address and a presentation of two dozen posters by medical residents, fellows and post-docs at Upstate.

“The first ‘Beyond the Doctorate’ Day was a success, not only in terms of how well attended the presentations were, but for the opportunity it provided the presenters to showcase their valuable research to their peers and to the campus community,” said Dr. William Grant, EdD, interim associate dean of GME.

Dr. Grant said that based on how smoothly the day went and the positive feedback he received, “We fully intend to make it an annual event.”

Residents and fellows selected for oral platform presentations were:

- Zurab Davili MD, Urology; “Five-Year Recurrence Rate of Transitional Cell Carcinomas”
- Varun Chowdhry, MD, Radiation Oncology; “The Impact of Interobserver Variability on Bladder Cancer Biopsy Interpretation”

The day featured 10 platform presentations, a keynote address and a presentation of two dozen posters by medical residents, fellows and post-docs at Upstate.

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