

# Department of Medicine

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## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

To the faculty of the Department of Medicine: *(From Dr. Duggan on February 5th, 2016)*



We are approaching Dr. Iannuzzi's last days on campus, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his outstanding service to the Department of Medicine and Upstate Medical University over the last seven and a half years. Under Mike's direction, the Department of Medicine has grown substantially and has continued to be a leader in its educational programs, research, and clinical care. His enthusiasm for teaching and research is well appreciated, and his business acumen has proved invaluable. I wish him well in his new role on Staten Island.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Sri Narsipur has agreed to serve as Interim Chair, effective upon Mike's departure. Dr. Narsipur received his MD from the University of Michigan and completed Medicine-Pediatrics training at Tufts-Baystate, followed by a fellowship in Nephrology at the University of California, San Diego. He is currently Associate Professor of Medicine and, since 2008, Chief of the Division of Nephrology.

An outstanding clinician, Dr. Narsipur has been recognized as a Best Doctor in America in Nephrology since 2008, and was the recipient of the Gold Standard Award in 2012. He received the Medical Alumni Association Clinical Faculty Teaching Award, which is awarded by the graduating class to a single physician, in 2008, and he has received several teaching awards from the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics. He has been selected by other graduating classes to serve as Faculty Marshall twice and as the Commencement Awards Ceremony speaker. He is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha. His research interests focus on cardiovascular disease in chronic kidney disease.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Narsipur to this new role.



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*The Pulmonary Division & the Division Chiefs said their goodbyes to Dr. Iannuzzi at Drumlins January 23, at which time Dr. Iannuzzi was presented with a Stickley chair.*

*Past and current Pulmonary fellows took turns expressing their gratitude for everything that Dr. Iannuzzi had taught them.*

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*Drs. Michael Iannuzzi and Birendra Sah*



*Drs. Michael Iannuzzi, Manju Paul, and Savio John*

## RETIREMENTS/EMERITUS



“Dr. Moses received his MD Cum Laude from Upstate. He joined the faculty of the Upstate Department of Medicine in 1961. He was promoted to Professor in 1973. He is the recipient of numerous awards. He won the President’s Award for Excellence in Leadership and Research, the Chancellor’s Award in Recognition of Exemplary Contributions to Research and Scholarship at SUNY, and the American College of Endocrinology Award for Distinction in Clinical Endocrinology. In 1977, he became Director of the Clinical Research Unit at UH, and in 1986 he became Director of the Metabolic Bone Disease Center. He is internationally recognized for his contributions to clinical Endocrinology, and is an outstanding teacher, scientist and clinician. In 2007 he was promoted to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Service Professor.”



## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Bansal N, Manocha D, Danescu L, Liu K, Izquierdo R.** A case of reversible cardiomyopathy managed successfully. *Am J Ther* 2016 Jan-Feb 23(1):e256-9.

Bonaccorso RL, **Chepurny OG**, Becker-Pauly C, **Holz GG**, Doyle, RP. Enhanced peptide stability against protease digestion induced by intrinsic factor binding of a vitamin B12 conjugate of exendin-4. *Molec Pharmaceutics* 2015 Sept 8;12(9):3502-6. PMID: 26260673

**Gajra A**, Klepin HD, Feng T, Tew WP, Mohile SG, Owusu C, Gross CP, Lichtman SM, Wildes TM, Chapman AE, Dotan E, Katheria V, Zavala L, Akiba C, Hurria A; Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG). Predictors of chemotherapy dose reduction at first cycle in patients age 65 years and older with solid tumors. *J Geriatr Oncol*. 2015 Mar;6(2):133-40. PubMed PMID: 25666905; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4477805.

Ganti AK, Williams CD, **Gajra A**, Kelley MJ. Effect of age on the efficacy of adjuvant chemotherapy for resected non-small cell lung cancer. *Cancer* 2015 Aug 1;121(15):2578-85. PubMed PMID: 25873330.

**Izquierdo RE**, Wang D, Huang D, Palmas W, **Weinstock RS**. Case management with a diabetes team using home telemedicine: acceptance of treatment recommendations by primary care providers in IDEATel. *Telemedicine e-Health* 2015 Dec;21(12):980-6. PMID:26114996

Lareau C, Adrianto I, Levin A, **Iannuzzi M**, Rybicki B, Montgomery C. Fine mapping of chromosome 15q25 implicates ZNF592 in Neurosarcoidosis patients. *Ann Clin Translat Neuro* 2015 Oct;2(10):972-7. PMID:26478897

Masters GA, Temin S, Azzoli CG, Giaccone G, Baker S Jr, Brahmer JR, Ellis PM, **Gajra A**, Rackear N, Schiller JH, Smith TJ, Strawn JR, Trent D, Johnson DH. Systemic therapy for Stage IV non-small cell lung cancer: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Update. *J Clin Oncol* 2015 Oct 20;33(30):3488-515. PubMed PMID: 26324367.

Pinto I, Giri A, Arshad U, **Gajra A**. New oral anticoagulants and their reversal. *Curr Drug Saf* 2015;10(3):208-16. PubMed PMID: 25877809.

**Sah B, Iannuzzi MC**. Novel pharmacotherapy of sarcoidosis. *Pharmacol Therapeut* 2016 Jan;157:1-

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*"Individual commitment to a group effort--that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." --Vince Lombardi*

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“Kindness is one of the greatest gifts you can bestow upon another. If someone is in need lend them a helping hand. True kindness lies within the act of giving without the expectation of something in return.”

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## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS CONT.'D

Trief PM, Cibula D, Rodriguez E, Akel B, **Weinstock RS**. Incorrect insulin administration: problem that warrants attention. *Clin Diabetes*. 2016(34)1:25-33. PMID: 26807006

Vaidya G, Sarwar M, Sun ZX, Wei TM, **Liu K**. A sickle cell disease patient with severe tricuspid regurgitation and early developed pulmonary hypertension. *Intern Med* 2015;54(19):2459-62. PMID: 26424303

## RESIDENT ABSTRACTS

**Alisha Hemraj**, Jason Back, Tanya George. A case of laryngitis caused by an unusual suspect, to be presented at SCCM, Orlando, FL, February 20-24, 2015.

**Amish J. Shah, Ravi Doobay, Arunpreet Kahlon, Umair Masood**, David Landsberg. Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation use in a patient with multiple severe co-morbidities, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

**Gaurang Nandkishor Vaidya, Rushikesh Shah**, Amit Dhamoon. Pulmonary sarcomatoid carcinoma presenting as a necrotizing cavitary lung lesion: Diagnostic dilemma. *Journal of Community and Supportive Oncology* Manuscript # JSO-D-15-00086.

**Gaurang Nandkishor Vaidya, Wahihuddin Syed, Rushikesh Shah**, Kan Liu. Takotsubo cardiomyopathy masquerading as STEMI after successful resuscitation from PEA-arrest, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

**Jill Yeager, Wajihuddin Syed**, Anup Shah, Amit Dhamoon. Lyme's disease manifesting as SIADH, presented at NYACP, November 14, 2015.

**Obiajulu Anozie, Anuj Sharma**, Housam Hegazy. A rare presentation of infective endocarditis caused by *Aerococcus* *urinae*, presented at NYACP, Syracuse, NY, November 14, 2015.

**Ravi Doobay, Amish Shah, Umair Masood**, Arundeeep Kahlon, Dragos Manta. Aspiration or AsPEARation?, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

## VERA HOUSE

A big thank you to all those who made it possible for this year's donation to Vera House! “For over 35 years, Vera House has been helping individuals and families who reach out to us to find a place of safety, compassion, assistance, and the encouragement they need to build new lives.” More information can be found at [www.verahouse.org](http://www.verahouse.org) or if you call (315) 425-0818.

## FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the food bank back in December. Collectively, we were able to provide a total of 263 meals. Another big thank you to everyone who made this donation possible!

If you would like to visit the Food Bank or learn more, **Lynn Hy** can be contacted at (315) 437-1899x247. More information is also available at [www.foodbankcny.org](http://www.foodbankcny.org).



## ABIM BOARDS FOR HOSPITAL MEDICINE

We would like to congratulate the following doctors who recently took and passed their ABIM Boards with Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine:

- Matthew G. Glidden, MD
- Housam Hegazy, MD, FACP
- David F. Lehmann, MD, PharmD

## ABIM ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF NEW GERIATRIC MEDICINE BOARD

On February 25th the ABIM announced the formation of a new Specialty Board devoted to Geriatrics. This new board will join the eleven other ABIM specialty boards. They also announced the physicians and public/interprofessional members who will serve on the Geriatric Medicine Board. One of our own very doctors was selected: Sharon Brangman, MD. Congratulations!

## ‘BABY-BABY CHIEF RESIDENTS’

The following PGY-2’s have recently been announced as the “baby-baby Chief Residents.” They will assume their role formally in June 2017.

- Kunal Chawla
- Pallavi Koppa
- Adam Zayac

Congratulations!

## BEYOND THE DOCTORATE RESEARCH DAY

This year Beyond the Doctorate Research Day will be on Wednesday, March 9th. The event will begin at 1:00 PM. The following doctors from our department will be presenting:

**Amrita Dhillon, MBBS**, “Post CABG Thyroid Storm : A near miss”

**Gaurang Vaidya, MBBS**, ‘Get QT’: A Comprehensive Criteria to Differentiate Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy from STEMI

**Jessica Patel, MD**, “Improve documentation, improve observed outcomes”

**Kegan Jessamy, MBBS**, Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole-induced Aseptic Meningitis: Not Just another Headache

**Mariam Alexander, MD**, An unusual presentation of Chronic diffuse osteomyelitis

**Obiajulu Anozie, MD**, A Rare Presentation of Infective Endocarditis Caused by Aerococcus Pneumoniae

**Viveksandeeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar, MBBS**, “Decreasing Inappropriate use of PPI for Stress Ulcer Prophylaxis in Inpatient Population: A Quality Initiative”



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*“Dream it.  
Believe it.  
Achieve it.”*

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*“They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel.” - Maya Angelou*

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## THE GOLD STANDARD AWARD

Dr. Suman Swarnkar has been selected as one of this year’s recipients of a Gold Standard Award. This award recognizes commitment, passion, and a dedication to your work, and to the values of Upstate. She will be recognized at the Celebration of the Faculty. This will be held on Wednesday, March 16th, 4:30 PM—6:00 PM at the IHP (505 Irving Avenue). Congratulations!



## KUDOS

### University Cardiology

“Very understanding when I needed to cancel and reschedule.” “**Dr. Michiel’s nurses** have been great.” “**Dr. Carhart** is very nice and a caring doctor. He tries to do what he can to help.” “**Dr. Michiel** is a great doctor and goes the extra step.” “All good experiences so far with **Dr. Tamas Szombathy**.” “**Dr. Michiel** is very professional and provides excellent personal care.” “**Dr. Chaudhary** is an excellent doctor.” “They are the best ever!” “My provider was very supportive when I explained that I stopped smoking cigarettes on my own. “ “The entire staff was excellent and thorough.” “I would recommend anyone to use this service.” “**Dr. Szombathy** was very caring. He is very knowledgeable about all aspects of health – not just heart issues.” “**Dr. Debanik Chaudhuri** was great.” “The staff listens to any new or old issues that have come up and take immediate care. “ “**Dr. Kan Liu**, greets me in a very formal way and wants to know how my health is and any drastic changes that may have occurred. I have complete confidence in him and all the other doctors at the office.”

### University Geriatricians

“We think your office is wonderful and has been wonderful for my mom. **Dr. Berg** is terrific and couldn’t have chosen a better doctor!!” “She is very pleasant and friendly with my mother and tries to be sensitive to her needs.” “**Dr. Berg** should teach other providers in other care facilities how to be good to the elderly the way she is!” “The office is always very clean and looks nice at all times of the day.” “We have recommended your practice to quite a few people!” **Dr. Berg** is truly wonderful in her job and seems like she enjoys what she’s doing, which is nice to see. We’ve never seen a doctor listen to everyone the way she does.” “We’ve never had to wait and never had any delays at your office – it’s always a wonderful experience and we always look forward to it.” “Very helpful, patient, professional, took time to listen. **Dr. Brangman’s** office staff – highly recommended.” “They all worked as a team – very impressed with all who assisted with our first visit to **Dr. Brangman’s** office. She and her nurse were super knowledgeable, very professional and made this stressful visit a very good one – Thank you. I will certainly highly recommend them to family and friends.” “**Nurse Betsy** is always so compassionate; she takes her time. I never feel rushed. **Nurse Cathy** is also wonderful!!” “**Dr. Sharon Brangman** is very professional and caring.” “**Dr. Berg** was very professional and concerned. She did an excellent job.” “Every visit with **Dr. Bishop** promises to be the best!” “**Christopher Norman** is very knowledgeable and informative regarding regulating medications and side effects.” “The entire staff is very good and I feel safe for my mother with this practice.” “**Dr. Berg** was on time and went over concerns with my family & me.” “The doctor went out of her way to problem solve and address issues of concern.” “**Dr. Bishop** is everything I need and believe a doctor should be. **Nurse Betsy** is also excellent; she was interested in me and sensitive.”

### Joslin Center for Diabetes

“We are fortunate to have this Joslin Center.” “NEVER had a bad experience.” “**Dr. Rachel Hopkins** is such a sweetheart!” “**Dr. Mols** is excellent in explaining, encouraging, and being thorough. She is the best doctor I have ever had (I’m 65). No lectures.”

## KUDOS Cont.'d

“Look forward to my next visit!” “Always a good experience with **Dr. Roberto Izquierdo!**” “Definitely a good experience, especially with **Dr. Izquierdo.**” “Everyone did a good job.” “My experiences with **Dr. Izquierdo and staff** have always been very good!” “**Dr. Donna** is very special.” “**Dr. Roberto Izquierdo** makes me feel very comfortable.” “**Dr. Hopkins** was knowledgeable and cared well for me.” “**Dr. Barbara Feuerstein** treats you and talks to you like a real person and a friend.” “My doctor was very caring, kind, and understanding.” “Everyone from the lab tech to the doctor was very professional and caring on my first visit.” “**Dr. Nadkarni** was caring and kind. He explained everything in detail.”

### ROC

“So fortunate to have the new center with an ultra modern facility and the most advanced medicine!” “Everyone was very professional and very kind to me. I will never forget most of the people who treated me. Excellent care!” “The doctor was very informative, professional, and kind to me.” “Thanks for saving our lives!” “Everyone with whom I met with was extremely courteous, caring, and professional.” “The nurse and aides in the chemotherapy room showed genuine concern for my needs and were extremely helpful in answering any of my questions.” “The doctors and nurses addressed all my needs as well as those of my family and support team. Their concern about my comfort and understanding gave me a sense of genuine caring.” “Everyone from registration and nursing, the lab techs and especially the doctors have given me the best treatment and care far above my expectations. Thank you from me and my family.” “Everything has been great!” “They made everything easy.” “The doctors, nurses, lab techs, and receptionists are all excellent.” “I’m in good hands.” “The staff was excellent in all aspects of my treatment. Please give them my thanks.” “Everyone was very kind and comforting.” “Staff has been excellent. Very attentive. I have called the ‘hot-line’ when I had experiences at home from treatment and staff has been very thorough with advice.” “The staff is friendly, courteous, and very professional. I feel completely at home when I have treatment at the facility.” “They are always very helpful and accommodating!” “It’s always nice and clean.” “Everyone was very upbeat and caring! A great team! Thank you!” “The entire staff made us patients feel special and took wonderful care of us all! Many thanks!”

### Medicine Subspecialties

“**Dr. Allam** always listens, answers questions, and is genuinely concerned about me and my health.” “**Dr. Yu** is a caring and interested doctor.” “**Dr. Fatme Allam** is the best and always goes above and beyond!” “**Dr. Sah** was OUTSTANDING.” “**Dr. Sah** and the reception staff were STELLAR.” “Everyone was excellent.” “**Dr. Perl** takes his time and shows great care and thoroughness in his examination. Also, he is extremely knowledgeable about my condition. **Ryan Kelly** was also extremely friendly and provided outstanding explanations and information.” “**Dr. Sah** made me feel absolutely at ease. He spent additional time clarifying options. Navigating tech support to access old records and explaining my condition to me. He was kind, patient, and informative – I am so grateful to him.” “**Dr. Knohl** was great.”

### Adult Medicine

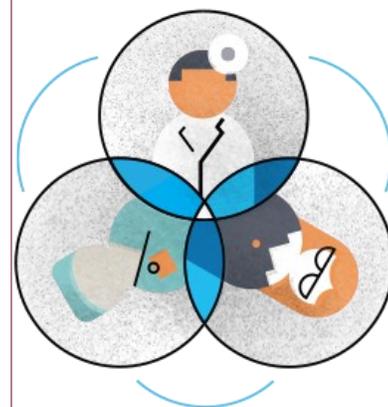
“**Dr. Cleary** provided significant support for me.” “The nurse was very caring, respectful, friendly and pleasant.” “The provider was really concerned about my health and feelings, and took a lot of time explaining to me what was going on.” “The staff goes above and beyond to help me and I really do appreciate their help so much.” “**Dr. Buchan** is a good person and I would give her a gold ribbon.” “**Dr. Dipti Baral** was very pleasant, nice, caring, and understanding. She explained my problem to me and went out of her way to help me. **Nurse Mary** was also very nice, caring, and respectful. I appreciate it very much.” “**Dr. Alam Bisma** is a warm and caring person. She is the only doctor in my entire life who has taken the time to call me with test results. Impressive!” “They all impressed me from registration to check out – a good group of people!”




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*“The staff goes above and beyond to help me and I really do appreciate their help so much.” - Kudos*

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## GREAT NEWS FROM ACGME

A huge congratulations to Dr. Knohl and the EPO Office on ACGME's approval to permanently increase the House Staff from 95 to 135 positions! This will go into effect later in July of this year.

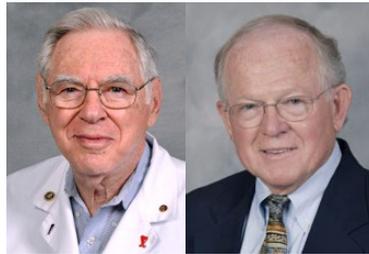
## NEW FACULTY

One new faculty member will be starting in the Spring of 2016. Dr. Oleh George Pankewycz will be joining the Nephrology Division as a transplant Nephrologist. He received his MD at Columbia in New York City, and did his residency at University of Chicago, and fellowship at New England Medical Center at Tufts in Boston. In addition he has post-doc fellowship experience from Tufts and Beth Israel in Boston. Most recently he has been the Medical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation for Pinnacle Health in Harrisburg, PA



## HEALTHLINK ON AIR

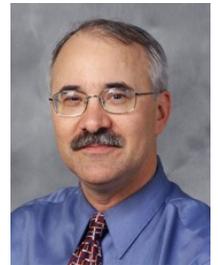
*"Innovation is change that unlocks new value" -  
Jamie Notter*



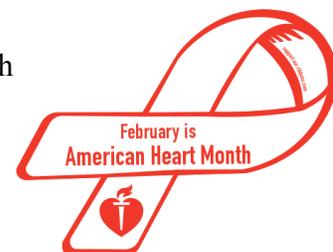
"Upstate cardiologist **Harold Smulyan, MD** (left), and infectious disease expert **Donald Blair, MD**, take a historical look at a deadly heart infection. Upstate assistant vice president Thomas Pelis shares how big institutions, such as Upstate Medical University, are going green. Bioethics and humanities assistant professor Thomas Curran, MD, and associate professor Robert Olick, JD, PhD, discuss the importance of the health care proxy." Listen here:

[http://media.upstate.edu:81/pod\\_content/hloa/1-3-16-RADIOSHOW.mp3](http://media.upstate.edu:81/pod_content/hloa/1-3-16-RADIOSHOW.mp3)

"Advances in cancer research are ushering in precision treatments designed to be more effective and less toxic to the patient. These treatments aim to zero in on a tumor and are less concerned with where it originated, says **Stephen Graziano, MD**, Upstate's division chief of hematology and oncology. This could mean, for example, that a patient takes an oral medicine at home, with less nausea and hair loss than in traditional chemotherapy. Graziano cautions, however, that these treatments tend to be for a small percentage of patients and usually for more advanced cases. The high cost of these precision treatments will also need to be addressed, probably by Congress, he said." Listen here: [http://media.upstate.edu:81/pod\\_content/hloa/10-13-16-Graziano.mp3](http://media.upstate.edu:81/pod_content/hloa/10-13-16-Graziano.mp3)



January was Cervical  
Health Awareness Month



## NYACP SYRACUSE DISTRICT MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16th at the Craftsman Inn & Conference Center in Fayetteville.

Registration begins at 6 PM and the dinner and education program follows at 6:30 PM. There is no fee for ACP members to attend this dinner and educational program but pre-registration is required before March 9th. You can register by phone at (518) 427-0366 or online at [www.NYACP.org](http://www.NYACP.org).

Program topics include *Recognition of Potential Sepsis in the Outpatient Process: Urgencies and Emergencies* by Alan Sanders, MD and *Pitfalls of Electronic Health Records* by Donnie Richman, Esq.

## NIH RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT PROGRAM (R01)



Dr. Andras Perl was recently awarded an R01 Grant. Congratulations! “The R01 Grant is the original and historically oldest grant mechanism used by the NIH. The grant is an award made to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project to be performed by the named investigator(s) in an area representing the investigator’s specific interest and competencies, based on the mission of the NIH.” <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r01.htm>

Dr. Perl’s research will focus on the molecular basis of autoimmunity.

## 2016 F.O.C.U.S. WISDOM KEEPER AWARD



Let us congratulate Dr. Brangman on this year’s F.O.C.U.S. Wisdom Keeper Award! The award is presented each year to an individual who has shown leadership and an understanding of the importance of the vision for tomorrow, according to F.O.C.U.S.. The 7th annual F.O.C.U.S. Wisdom Keeper event will be held on April 6th, 2016 at the Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center. More information and tickets can be found at the following link: <http://www.focussyracuse.org/2015/10/2016-wisdom-keeper/>

## UPSTATE EARNS \$2.35 MILLION GRANT, CENTER OF EXCELLENCE DESIGNATION

Upstate has received NYS Department of Health award of up to \$2.35 million over five years and the new designation as a Center of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease. The funding will be used to expand the center’s efforts to diagnose those with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias in the early stages of their illness. Dr. Brangman says, “Patients who receive an early and accurate diagnosis will have access to new courses of treatment as they become available, may participate in clinical trials, and will be at a stage in their disease where they can have a say in their advanced care planning to address their financial, legal, medical, and caregiving needs.” The center will also train health care providers and students on the detection, diagnosis and treatment of dementias. In addition, they also collaborate with Alzheimer’s Association chapters and other social service and health care providers in the region to promote public and professional education and support for patients and caregivers. An article on this can be found in the February 2016 edition of *Physicians Practice*.



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Great job everyone!

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## Upstate Medical University

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*Overall, a big round of applause to everyone! What a great start to the new year with all the awards and good news.*



*Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter and the sources used, i.e. HealthLink, Physicians Practice, etc. If you have any updates or news that would like to be put in the next newsletter please contact me. Thank you.*