



The Legacy of Dr. William Williams



We are saddened to announce that our beloved Dr. William Williams passed away Friday, November 4th, just one month shy of his 90th birthday. Dr. Williams was Dean Emeritus, Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Edward C. Reifenshtein Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Williams was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey, and graduated from University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1949. He remained there until 1969. He was Professor and Chief of the Hematology Section and later acting Chairman of the Department of Medicine there.

In 1969 Dr. Williams came to Upstate as Chair of the Department of Medicine for 22 years until 1992. He was Interim Dean of the College of Medicine from 1991-1992.

Dr. Williams was Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice President for Biomedical Sciences at Upstate from 2002-2004.

Dr. Williams left his unique brand on the field of hematology through his patient care and research and wrote “the book” on the field editing what became for most of the 1970’s and 80’s one of the two most familiar English language hematology textbooks. Originally called “Hematology it was later renamed “Williams Hematology”.

Dr. Williams added a human touch to teaching, and was well known for his bow tie and gentle smile. Residents were drawn here because of his textbook and his leadership and heart.

Dr. Williams “officially” retired in 2006, but was still involved in a teaching capacity at Upstate, particularly with “Learning to Talk”, until a couple of years ago. Even after retirement, he would stop in at the Holidays with gifts for the Medicine office.

Dr. Williams was a great man who taught countless numbers of physicians who are practicing today. We are sure he will be long remembered.

Patrice Palmieri

**Upstate will be planning a celebration of Dr. Williams' life in the coming weeks.*



Special points of interest:

- *Kudos*
- *Faculty Promotions*
- *Infectious Disease in Haiti*
- *Dr. Lehmann in Haiti*
- *Presidential Symposium*

Dr. David Duggan's Reception



A reception was held on October 13, 2016 from 3:00-5:00 PM in the Setnor Atrium honoring all his time, dedication, and work here at Upstate Medical University Hospital.

Dr. Duggan was the Dean of the College of Medicine and Senior Vice President. Dr. Duggan will be re-joining the Hematology/Oncology Division after his sabbatical.

The following was in the reception's program:

"In a medical career spanning more than three decades, Dr. David Duggan has been committed to the health-care of Central New York. He first joined Upstate Medical University as a medical student in 1975, and after the completion of his residency in internal medicine and fellowships in hematology and medical oncology at Tuft-New England Medical Center, he returned to Upstate in 1985. During his tenure he has made great progress strengthening the academic foundation of the College of Medicine to have greater response to the needs of students and the ever-changing health care market. Dr. Duggan served as professor and chair of the Department of Medicine from 1993 to 2008, and as chief quality officer for University Hospital from 2008 to 2011.

He served as interim dean of the College of Medicine, associate vice president for Clinical Affairs and medical director of University Hospital from 2011 to 2013. In 2013 he was named senior vice president and dean of the College of Medicine.

He has taken great pride in delivering a better standard of care to patients, being on a team for clinical research and teaching on the faculty. As dean, he has been responsible for educational, research and clinical programs of the College of Medicine and management of its financial resources and space. He has seen Upstate expand exponentially. The total space where patients are seen has grown from

a small space behind Uni-floor cafeteria to a host of cialty Services at Harrison Center, the Regional On-Golisano Children's Hos-Center, Institute for Hu-tions in Oswego, Cort-counties. A true advocate Duggan will continue his of medicine after return-batical. As a member of to teach the next genera-invested in research that ward. Dr. Duggan has invited presentations and more than 40 peer-chapters, most dealing patients, especially breast Duggan has held a num-professional organiza-



the American College of Physicians Foundation, president of the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians and presi-dent of the Onondaga County Medical Society. The recipient of many honors and awards, he has been chosen by the College of Medi-cine's graduating classes of 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 to receive the Syracuse Medical Alumni Association's Clinical Faculty Teach-ing Award. He has also been selected by The Best Doctors in America for more than 15 years. Dr. Duggan received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamilton College in 1975 and an MD degree from Upstate Medical University in 1979. He enjoys skiing, sailing and vol-unteering for the Skaneateles Chamber Music Festival. He and his wife, fellow physician Lynn Cleary, reside in Skaneateles and have three children."

university Hospital's second sites that include the Spe-Center, Joslin Diabetes cology Center, East Tower, pital, Upstate Health Care man Performance and local-land, Cayuga, and Madison of academic medicine, Dr. role at Upstate as professor ing from a six-month sab-the faculty, he will continue tion of doctors and remain helps move the field for-long contributed to various publications that include reviewed articles and book with clinical care of cancer cancer and lymphomas. Dr. ber of leadership roles in tions, including treasurer for



Resident Publications and Abstracts

Publications:

Zabeer Bhatti, Jaswinder Virk, Devamohan Sivalingam. Submental abscess after deoxycholic injection. *American Journal of Therapeutics*. 2016.

Aswini Kumar, Hiroshi Kato. Macrophage Activation syndrome associated with adult-onset Still's disease successfully treated with Anakinra. *Rheumatology*, Case Report, 2016.

Umair Masood, Anuj Sharma, Divey Manocha. Liver toxicity from Solifenacin. *American Journal of Therapeutics*. 2016 Aug 17. [Epub ahead of print]. PMID: 27574943

Umair Masood, Anuj Sharma, Sonny Nijjar, Barbara Krenzer. Unusual case of an alcoholic with liver injury from Sulfasalazine. *Journal of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology*, 2016. In press.

Umair Masood, Anuj Sharma, Wajihuddin Syed, Divey Manocha. Bowel ischemia from heat stroke: A rare presentation of an uncommon complication. *Case Reports in Medicine*. 10/3/16

Umair Masood, Anuj Sharma, Sonny Nijjar, Natalie Pavelock, Divey Manocha. Rare cause of gastric varices secondary to an isolated left gastric vein stenosis. *Journal of Digestive Diseases and Diagnosis*, 2016. 10/3/16.

ABSTRACTS

Komal Akhtar, Adam Zayac, Matthew Glidden. Infectious mononucleosis as a rare cause of icteric jaundice, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Komal Akhtar, Adam Zayac, David Lehmann. Sick lungs from Sicca syndrome, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Abdullah Al Twal, Ayodeji Olarewaju, Ioana Amzuta. Airy marrow. A case report, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Stamatis Baronos, D. Basri, William Darko, **Ryan Dean (presented)**, Anuj Sharma, Anil Ghimire. A rare case of propofol-induced myoclonus after prolonged infusion, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Ryan Asterita, Viveksandeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar, Patrick Kohlitz. A unique presentation of serum sickness from rabbit antithymocyte globulin in a kidney transplant recipient, submitted to NYACP, New York, NY, November 5, 2016.

Ryan Asterita, Viveksandeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar, Dalvir Gill, Sheila Lemke. Gastric cancer with Leptomeningeal carcinomatosis: Rare but deadly, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Ben Gabr Jihad, Fidelis Ojevwe, David Landsberg. An unusual case of brain metastasis from colorectal cancer, presented at ACG, October 14-19, 2016.

Uma Bhat, Obiajulu Anozie, Serena Grewal, Ashraya Karkee, Housam Hegazy. Chest pain as a preseting manifestation of aspirin toxicity, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Zabeer Bhatti, Jessica Norsworthy, Dalvir Gill, Cate White, Amitpal Nat. Transient cocaine-induced Brugada pattern, will present at NYACP, New York, NY, November 5, 2016.

Zabeer Bhatti, Jessica Norsworthy, Dalvir Gill, Devamohan Sivalingam. Submental abscess after deoxycholic acid injection, will present at NYACP, November 5, 2016.

Kunal Chawla, Amish Shah, Leena Pawar, Kritine Soltanpour, Samana Zaidi. Chronic pleural effusions secondary to peritoneal dialysis, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Stamatis Baronos, D. Basri, William Darko, **Ryan Dean (presented)**, Anuj Sharma, Anil Ghimire. A rare case of propofol-induced myoclonus after prolonged infusion, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Ryan Dean, Rogin Subedi, Dalvir Gill, Debra Buchan. Salmonella colitis as an unusual cause of elevated lipase, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 14-16, 2016.

Resident Publication and Abstracts Cont.'d

Ryan Dean, Anuj Sharma, Stamatis Baronos, Ashraya Karkee, Ioana Amzuta. Out of place: An endobronchial aspergilloma, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Ravi Doobay, David Landsberg. Combined tonicity fluids in complex critical care patients, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Dalvir Gill, Sumendra Joshi, James Sexton. Successful treatment of lung abscess with pigtailed catheter after failure with antibiotics and surgical debridement, presented at CHEST, Los Angeles, CA, October 22-26, 2016.

Maya Ignaszewski, Viveksandeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar. Hafnia alei: Friend or foe? A rare case of post-ERCP sepsis, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Maya Ignaszewski, Martha Ignaszewski, Patrick Kohlitz. Lamotrigine-associated hemophagocytic lympho-histiocytosis, will present at NYACP, New York, NY, November 5, 2016.

Kegan Jessamy, Christy Ann Gilman, Emeka Ukwuoma, Ashraya Karkee, Sadia Ashraf, Vasili Bushunow, Donald Moore, Housam Hegazy. Thyrotoxic periodic paralysis: An initial presentation of Grave's disease in a Caucasian male, will present at NYACP, New York, NY, November 5, 2016.

Babar Ahmad Khan, Emily Albert. Lemmel's syndrome: A rare cause of obstructive jaundice secondary to periampullary diverticulum; case report, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Semaan Kobrossi, Umair Masood, Alisa Vitkus, Kegan Jessamy, Sekou Rawlins. Reversal of GI bleeding with idarucizumab in a patient on dabigatran and incidental finding of a retroperitoneal hematoma, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Prathik Krishnan, Milan Patel, Poornima Ramadas, Dragos Manta. A case of asbestosis in talc miner, presented at CHEST, Los Vegas, NV, October 22-26, 2016.

Umair Masood, Anuj Sharma, Sonny Nijjar, Divey Manocha. An uncommon case of amoebiasis, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Umair Masood, Anuj Sharma, Sonny Nijjar, Natalie Pavelock, Divey Manocha. Coronary vein stenosis: A rare cause of upper gastrointestinal varices, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Umair Masood, Anuj Sharma, Jalaluddin Umar, Arundeeep Kahlon, Nuri Ozden, Ronald Szykowski. Duodenal perforation caused by an inferior vena cava filter, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Jessica Norsworthy, Tanya George. Cardiac complications of the seemingly innocuous *Propionibacterium acnes*, will present at NYACP, November 5, 2016.

Jessica Norsworthy, Anil Ghimire. Respiratory failure due to neuromuscular blockade from gentamicin therapy, will present at NYACP, New York, NY, November 5, 2016.

Kinner Patel, Tyler Gilmore, Sonal Kamalia. The emergence of *Stenotrophomonas* species as an important cause of morbidity and mortality among patients with hepatobiliary malignancy, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Kinner Patel, Eric Pikas, Tanya George. Drug-induced necrotizing pancreatitis with a focus on Canagliflozin, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Kinner Patel, Benjamin White, Timothy Endy. A case of Guillain-Barré syndrome associated with Lyme disease, will present at NYACP, New York, NY, November 5, 2016.

Poornima Ramadas, Prathik Krishnan, Manu Paul. SLE or lymphoma: A perplexing case, will present at NYACP, New York, NY, November 5, 2016.

Amish Shah, Arundeeep Kahlon, Ioana Amzuta. Acute esophageal necrosis in an alcoholic after successful

Resident Publications and Abstracts Cont.'d

resuscitation from cardiac arrest, presented at ACG, October 14-19, 2016.

Anuj Sharma, Umair Masood, Obiajulu Anozie, Rashad Khan, Ryan Dean, Sheila Lemke. First ever case report of enterocolitis after Pazopanib therapy, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Anuj Sharma, Umair Masood, Sonny Nijjar, Arundeeep Kahlon, Nuri Ozden. Livedo reticularis in setting of chronic pancreatitis, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Anuj Sharma, Umair Masood, Arunpreet Kahlon, Sundeep Pattar, Shaigan Iqbal, David Lehmann. *Streptococcus mitis* bacteremia and endocarditis: An early sign in pre-cancerous colon polyps, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, November 14-19, 2016.

Priyanka Srivastav, Ryan Dean, Rajeev Yalamanchili. Radiation induced hemorrhagic gastritis: A treatment conundrum, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Ezinnaya Ubagharaji, Mariam Alexander, C. Ubagharaji, Kegan Jessamy, Obiajulu Anozie, Brian Changlai. A case of familial esophageal achalasia: A case report, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Jalaluddin Umar, Pramod Pantangi, Sekou Rawlins. High no-show rates in the outpatient clinic: Analysis of a university based gastroenterology (GI) practice, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Jalaluddin Umar, Lauren Panebianco, Abdullah Al Twal, Gurveen Kaur, Savio John. Spontaneous Tumor Lysis syndrome in a metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma patient, presented at ACG, Las Vegas, NV, October 14-19, 2016.

Gaurang Vaidya, Bhaskara Madhira. Cardiogenic shock in Takotsubo cardiomyopathy: Estimation of risk factors, to be presented at HFSA, Kissimmee, Florida, September 17-20, 2016.

Resident and Intern Teaching Awards

The resident and intern to be awarded the teaching awards were **Drs. Seeman Kobrossi** and **Mike Kuhn**, respectively.

The students had the following to say about Dr. Kobrossi: "For best teaching resident I have to go with Semaan. On top of the phenomenal EKG lectures he gave, he took time out of most afternoons to sit down with me and the other medical students to go through various topics. We went through work-up and management of ACS, DVT, interpretation of PFTs and management of COPD, among others. He was also very open to questions and incredibly friendly and kind to work with."

And for Dr. Kuhn: "Always was ready with the answers to your questions or the proper resource to find them yourself. Had a lot of interesting facts about medicine that you don't normally hear."

Faculty Promotions

Dr. Duggan has reviewed and approved the COM Appointments and Promotions Committee's recommendations that

Dr. Sriram Narsipur be promoted to *Professor*

Dr. Stephen Thomas be appointed to the rank of *Professor*

2 Voluntary Faculty:

Dr. Peter Cronkright be promoted to *Clinical Professor*

Dr. Abid Iraqi be promoted to *Clinical Professor*

Excellus News

Dr. Richard Lockwood is the new *Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Excellus BCBS, CNY Region*.

Dermatology Screenings

Upstate's Dermatology Interest Group held free American Academy of Dermatology Skin Cancer Screenings Sept. 30 in the UH cafe, performed by the Department of Medicine's Board-certified dermatologists **Ramsay Farah, MD, and Joyce Farah, MD**. 90 screenings were performed.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States but is highly treatable when caught early.

Upstate's Dermatology Interest Group is a student-led organization designed to enhance students' knowledge and skills in dermatology, promote skin cancer awareness, and provide information on residency and career avenues in dermatology

Infectious Disease Conference Room

“In recognition of 42 years of leadership in the Division of Infectious Disease and Department of Medicine. He has been an inspiration for generations of interns, residents, and fellows. Dr. Blair’s career is epitomized by the quote, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.””



Convocation Ceremony



Dr. David Lehmann received the Distinguished Service Professor award on September 14th. Previous winners of the award from the Department of Medicine are: Drs. Ruth Weinstock, Sharon Brangman, Lynn Cleary (Distinguished Teaching Award), Arnold Moses (Now Retired, Emeritus), and William Williams (Emeritus).

Kudos

Adult Medicine

“Professional and courteous.” “Both the intern, doctor, and receptionist were pleasant.” “**Nurse Mary** was kind, nice, and respectful. She listens to me in what I have to say.” “All were excellent.” “Each doctors were each focused, professional, and at the same time friendly with a sense of humor.” “It’s hard to find the right words to describe **Dr. Cleary** – “Doctor extraordinaire,” “one in a million” come to mind. I’m enjoying life, at 81! I’m in good health, thanks to her!” “**Dr. Lynn Cleary** was kind, compassionate, and wonderful.” “**Nurse Connie** was wonderful.”

University Cardiology

“Scheduling is very helpful.” “The doctors are the top in our book! That’s the way it should be.” “The doctor is nice and very concerned about how I fell and what he is doing for my care.” “We liked him very much. He made me feel at ease.” “Everyone here is concerned about the patient.” “I’m happy with this practice.” “**Dr. Villareal’s** patient experience and bedside manner are a breath of fresh air. He practices medicine the way it should be.” “**Dr. Liu** was willing to contact other physicians to get multiple opinions on best treatment/drugs.” “**Dr. Michiel** is a wonderful doctor and reason I’m still here today, at the ripe old age of 84.” “**Dr. Mookherjee** is the best cardiologist in the biz!” “Entire medical team was outstanding.” “**Dr. Carhart** is an awesome doctor. Very friendly and always smiling when he enters the room.” “The nurses and doctors are the best I’ve ever experienced.” “**Dr. Chaudhuri** exceeds my expectations.” The nurse manager, Scott, always goes out of his way for me.” “**Dr. Kozman** is very down to earth.” “**Dr. Szombathy** gives a thorough and comprehensive explanation of diagnosis and resolution.” “**Dr. Chaudhuri** is the best! He goes above and beyond every time I see him.”

University Geriatricians

“I bring my mother (94 yrs. old) to all her appointment and interact with the doctor and staff. Always good!” “Good in all areas!” “We have the utmost confidence in this care provider and staff. Fortunate to be coming here.” “We are new to the area, and in the last couple of year we are very fortunate to have found this outstanding level of care.” “**Dr. Berg** is well advised in her field and willing to discuss problems of care for me and my family’s concerns.” “**Dr. Bishopb** was amazing with how much time she devote to my care.” “I was very impressed with **Christopher Norman** in all aspects.” “**Dr. Berg** and all of her staff are always kind, friendly, attentive and helpful. Her office sets a standard for what I expect and rarely ever see in other offices.” “The nurses are especially adept at giving care and support to both patient and caregivers.” “**Dr. Berg** is outstanding! She is compassionate, knowledgeable and genuine in her manner and approach.”

Joslin Center for Diabetes

“Very efficient.” “Very impressed with staff and cleanliness.” “**Dr. Kelly** took time to answer questions about my husband during his appointment.” “**Dr. Kelly** understood my frustration and was willing to make a change in my medication when others wouldn’t.” “**Dr. Weinstock** has ALWAYS impressed me. She is a role model to any professionals or staff who are lucky to be in her presence. I’ve never felt rushed by hear and always leave my appointments confident in the recommendations she makes, which has enabled me to manage my type 1 diabetes for over 40 years with no complications.” “They are all kind and great.” “Prompt attention and courtesy always provided.” “Everyone is very kind, caring, and helpful!” “I love this doctor but the nurse was really great too.” “Entire staff is great.”

Medicine Subspecialties

“**Dr. Ryanacha** was very good and told me everything that she was going to do.” “The nurse was courteous and quite knowledgeable.” “I have recommended **Dr. Kato** to many of my friends. He is excellent!” “**Dr. Yu** was very knowledgeable and seemed concerned regarding my issue. Gave good advice.” “**Nurse Ralph** loves his job and is always happy. When you’re not feeling good he makes your day!” “Both of my doctors were very nice and competent. More than the average physician.” “Staff made me feel very relaxed and very helpful.” “Outstanding staff from the front desk personnel to the nurses!” “Outstanding staffing, doctor was very patient and his full attention was on me during visit and he was very knowledgeable of my individual situation. Great facility!” “The office is very professional. The staff’s actions indicate that they care about the patients and take pride in their work.”

ROC

“Fantastic facility all around!” “Excellent people! Administrators are very helpful in dealing with social services. They’re very understanding with people who aren’t in a good mood or place. I can’t say enough.” “All the staff, nurses, and volunteers are amazing and always take great care of me!” “I love the fact that the center is very bright and cheery. The daisy wallpaper in the chemo-infusion area always brighten my day!” “The medical team is amazing!” “**Dr. Naqvi** is one of the best doctors.” “**Dr. Gajra** and his staff are all professional and caring.” “I can’t say enough things about my entire experience at Upstate Cancer Center. They all helped save my life.” “I couldn’t ask for a better team during this journey.” “Always treated with care and compassion.” “Nurses do a great job in making me comfortable, even when I have to wear my mask. They get if off when I’m done, I don’t like enclosed spaces. I give them a lot of credit.” “Staff is wonderful! Attentive to physical and emotional needs.”

Hurricane Matthew

The following comes from Upstate Announcements:

The Upstate Medical University community is responding to the devastation wrought here and abroad by Hurricane Matthew. Already hundreds have died, homes have been destroyed and flooding remains an ongoing threat to life for thousands in the wake of the storm.

In the United States, the hardest hit area was the southeast coast, affecting residents of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Florida.

The Caribbean island of Haiti received most of the storm's fury, killing hundreds and destroying villages. Compounding the tragedy is the threat of cholera.

This is a true disaster that warrants a true response, said **Mark Polhemus, MD, director of Upstate's Center for Global Health and Translational Science** that is supporting Upstate's response to the devastation by Hurricane Matthew. Upstate has always had individuals who will donate their time and money for such efforts, and we will again come together to offer our time, our talents, and our gifts. Upstate is grateful for all your support in this time of great need.

Many agencies both here and abroad are helping with relief efforts. Upstate offers some suggestions below, but individuals may want to consider supporting other agencies.

To aid relief efforts in the United States:

The American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

Salvation Army's National Emergency Disaster Services: <http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/>

To aid relief efforts in Haiti:

International Medical Corp: <https://give.internationalmedicalcorps.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1983&ea.campaign.id=56996&ea.tracking.id=SM~EMTH~SMHMT1710>

The Upstate Foundation worked with IMC for Upstate's support of earthquake relief efforts in Ecuador earlier this year.

Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad's Hurricane Matthew Relief Mission Fund: <http://aohpa.wildapricot.org/page-1805851>

GHEKIO, a medical clinic in Haiti sponsored by Weill Cornell Medicine that provides free medical care, especially for treatment of cholera, which is a significant threat as a result of the hurricane's devastation: <https://s010.med.cornell.edu/wcmc/make-a-donation.html> (Indicate Hurricane Matthew relief).

This is not the first time Upstate has supported international relief efforts and we will continue to solidify our efforts to respond efficiently and effectively to future disasters. Thank you all!

Earlier this year, Upstate supported relief efforts when an earthquake struck Ecuador. Upstate staff on the ground in Ecuador, where they have ongoing research and educational programs, were able to help distribute medical supplies and coordinate care for folks affected by the earthquake.

Last year, Upstate employees supported earthquake relief efforts in Nepal and Upstate Professor **Dr. Dinesh Subedi** traveled back to his native country to assist in treating the wounded.

In 2010, the Upstate community raised more than \$11,000 to aid in the Haitian earthquake relief. Five second-year medical students had returned from Haiti just prior to the Jan. 12 earthquake after spending the holiday break donating medical supplies and volunteering at a hospital.

Dr. David Lehmann visits Haiti

Dr. Lehmann went to Haiti October 22 and will be staying through the 29th as an emergency/disaster first responder through "International Medical Relief", post Hurricane Matthew. The last update we received was on October 24th. Dr. Lehmann made it to Haiti safely on Saturday, the 22nd, and met up with his team. International service is not working well, which was to be expected given the circumstances.

The lights were on and generators and phones were working, last we were updated. Dr. Lehmann is the only MD in the group, the rest of the team consists of nurses. The last location we heard they were in was Les Cayes on Sunday, the 23rd. The team treated **150** patients that day. The following day, Monday, the team made day trips to remote locations outside of their immediate region. Some of the individuals had never sought any type of medical care before visiting the team. The team treated **300** on Monday!

Updates are coming through as soon as the team can get to it, but it's evident that it's not a priority. We are likely to get pictures and more information upon Dr. Lehmann's return. Let's all wish him the best of luck with his work and service down in Haiti and a safe trip back!



All of the pictures were taken from UNICEF Haiti's Twitter. Updates are consistently being posted on their timeline. <https://twitter.com/UNICEFHaiti>

Dr. Lehman visits Haiti cont.'d

A Week in Haiti by Mia Ruiz –Salvador

Dr. David Lehmann recently spent a week in Haiti serving as part of a team with the International Medical Relief (IMR) organization, which consisted of 12 nurses, 2 mid-levels and himself, along with an entourage of drivers, cooks, translators, security, and ground team leaders.

The contrast between the beauty of the coast and base camp was heartbreaking seeing the devastation first-hand. They saw family after family simply sitting, exposed to the elements, in broken homes and broken lives.

The team provided medical treatment in outreach clinics to rural areas surrounding Les Cayes, the epicenter of the devastation. A primary focus was on the urgent treatment of numerous abscesses of the hands, feet and torsos, secondary to flying metal fragments, splintered timber, and broken glass. The team treated 1600 patients over the course of the week, helping many people; some of whom had never seen a doctor and many who walked for several hours just to reach the clinic.

Dave spent the week working very closely with a second year medical student from the community. He taught this young doctor-in-training how to differentiate what is normal from what is not, including eyes and ears, lung sounds, and how different organs feel on palpation or touch. At the end of the week, this medical student, Mr. Jameson, commented: *“The way you taught me made me love you more”*. A small ceremony was held on the final day during which Dr. Lehmann presented his Littman stethoscope and Welch-Allyn diagnostic kit to Mr. Jameson.

It is with much gratitude and many thanks to the principals in the administrative chain here at Upstate who helped provide medical supplies on short notice, that were so desperately needed in caring for the people of Haiti. The numerous liters of saline were life-saving to many. The first patient was given two liters to treat dehydration – that patient was Dr. Lehmann, himself. The last patient, who received the final 6 liters, was a likely cholera case in a 19 year old girl with near coma, sunken cheeks with a thready pulse of 150 and SBP of 70 palp. She was carried in, but [she] walked out.



HealthLink on Air

Research aims to combat dengue, Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases



Studies being conducted in Ecuador aim to document and alleviate mosquito-borne viruses including dengue fever and Zika, which plague tropical and subtropical regions of the world, including the southern United States. The varied work looks at everything from improving housing to perfecting a cheap mosquito trap, says [Anna Stewart Ibarra, PhD](#), a researcher from Upstate's Center for Global Health and Translational Science. She gives an update on the diseases and describes her fieldwork and collaborative efforts with Ecuador's Ministry of Health. (Click [here](#) for a photo gallery by Dany Krom titled "vector-borne diseases," showing a February 2016 flood in Machala, Ecuador, where Stewart Ibarra was among researchers studying the virus-carrying mosquitos and possible methods of control.) <http://blogs.upstate.edu/healthlinkonair/2016/09/23/research-aims-to-combat-dengue-zika-and-other-mosquito-borne-diseases/stewart-ibarra-2/>

Disaster delivers unexpected, but possibly hopeful, lessons to researchers

During the April 2016 earthquake in Ecuador, Upstate's [Anna Stewart Ibarra, PhD](#), and her team of researchers in that country helped mobilize relief efforts, including setting up a basic health clinic and buying emergency supplies with a [continuing fund through the Upstate Foundation](#). The researchers also saw the impact of the disaster on residents' physical and mental health and how the quake worsened existing health problems, such as the mosquito-borne diseases Stewart Ibarra studies. Those observations and ongoing studies can help to prepare for future efforts to fight diseases and disasters.



Presidential Symposium

Mary Claire-King, PhD, the geneticist who discovered the BRCA1 gene that has been linked to increased breast cancer risk, was the featured speaker at Upstate Medical University's first Presidential Symposium on October 28th and 29th. King, professor of medicine and genome sciences at the University of Washington, is one of the leading scientists of the day. In 1990, King demonstrated that a single gene on chromosome 17q21 (which she names BRCA1) was responsible for breast and ovarian cancer in many families. Her discovery of BRCA1 revolutionized the study of numerous other common inherited diseases. The approach the King developed to identify BRCA1 has since proven valuable in the study of many other genetic diseases and conditions.



The Presidential Symposium was held on October 28th and 29th. Also participating in the Symposium on October 29, were [Mark Polhemus, MD](#), and [Anna Stewart-Ibarra, PhD, MPA](#), of the Center for Global Health & Translational Science, ID Division. They were panelists for an open discussion. On October 28th, [Dr. Poiesz](#) did a presentation on "How science translates to medical applications."

Upstate partners with area universities on project to fight the spread of HIV

As seen on UpstateOnline: Upstate's Immune Health Services Medical Director Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy, MD, MS, has joined experts from Syracuse University and the University of Rochester in executing a project aimed at learning more about how to prevent HIV infection in at-risk men.

The project centers around a one-year study involving PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV, and was recently awarded \$74,211 from the National Institutes of Health. IRB approval is pending.

"The study is geared toward people in the community who are at high risk for HIV and are candidates for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis but are not currently taking it," said Asiago-Reddy.

Asiago-Reddy says while there are many different types of individuals at risk for HIV who might benefit from PrEP, this study specifically focuses on young men who have sex with men, and young transgender women who have sex with men, ages 15 to 25. The incidence of HIV is highest in these groups.

Once approved, the study will be rolled out in two phases. Investigators seek to enroll 30 participants for the first phase and 75 for the second phase.

The first phase will focus on in-depth interviews on participants knowledge about PrEP, feelings about their risk for HIV, pros and cons of current and future PrEP options.

"We are trying to break down the essential elements of PrEP, such as mode of delivery, cost, effectiveness and accessibility. What does the ideal HIV prevention program look like to participants?" Asiago-Reddy says.

Data from phase-one interviews will be used in the creation of a Discrete Choice Experiment (DCE), phase two of the study, showing participants two distinct options for PrEP. Results from phase two will help researchers tailor PrEP options to attract more individuals from high-risk groups.

"If we are not offering PrEP and HIV prevention options that are attractive and feasible for these individuals, we will not be making adequate progress in the fight against HIV," said Asiago-Reddy.

Enrollment in this study will begin once IRB approval has been granted. Once approved, study information will be available in multiple locations throughout Syracuse, including the Onondaga County STD clinic at the Civic Center, ACR Health, Southwest Community Center and the Syracuse University and Upstate Medical University campuses.

Asiago-Reddy joins Andrew London, PhD, professor of sociology at Syracuse University; John McPeak, PhD, professor of public administration and international affairs at Syracuse University; and Theresa Senn, PhD, assistant professor of clinical nursing at University of Rochester Center for AIDS Research, in this team effort.

The project is sponsored by the University of Rochester Center for AIDS Research,

For more on Upstate's Immune Health Services clinic, visit [Immune Health](#).



A big thanks!

Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter and the forums we used to make this newsletter happen. If you have any information or news that you would like to be entered into the next newsletter please contact myself or Sarah Scipione.

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