

MEDSTAFF NEWSLETTER

UPSTATE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

AUGUST 2014

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<mailto:askmec@upstate.edu>

MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL STAFF PRESIDENT

BETTINA SMALLMAN, MD

Several months ago a number of faculty received an invitation to become part of a new institution wide initiative called “Learning Communities in the College of Medicine.” The primary goal is to facilitate a strong sense of community among students, faculty and staff. A thoughtfully planned event calendar will allow medical students and faculty to meet in small groups, or on an individual basis over the course of this current academic year. Through focused academic and career advisory, the hope is to instill an enhanced sense of community and connection with the College of Medicine and Upstate Medical University, as well as the Binghamton Campus.

The series of events was launched with a “Dinner with a Doctor” afternoon on August 10. I have since learned that this is a 38 year tradition in Syracuse! The event for our learning community was hosted at the home of Dr. Mitchell Brodey, a specialist in infectious disease. Eight delightful first year medical students shared their story with us, where they came from and why they decided to go through the hard training of medical school and why Syracuse! What clearly stood out was the fact that each student was simply happy to have made it to Upstate and was eager to get going.

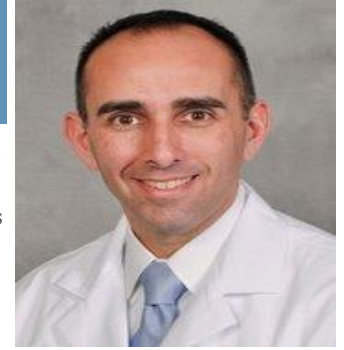
There was a moment of realization on my part; ignorance is a blessing. The reality

of sleeplessness and long arduous hours of studying, the endless cups of coffee, was just about to hit. What was far more intriguing though was the expressed commitment to become the best physician possible and the promise to provide the best care for their patients. The students had many questions, which we answered to the best of our abilities. The exchange was also a reminder that learning takes place both ways. A personal take home message for me was to occasionally take a time out and flash back to those initial feelings of awe and excitement, mixed with a healthy dose of apprehension.



Bettina Smallman, MD

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU? ANTHONY P. WEISS, MD, MBA



I've written before about physician engagement, and its importance to our hospital (and indeed patient care period). Engagement is a measure of the emotional connection to the work, and this connection, this positive energy, is essential to being able to provide the empathic and thorough care that each of us aspires to. Disengaged doctors, doctors who have lost that sense of connection or higher purpose, can still get the job done. But the result will lack the human touch that brings meaning to the care that doctors can provide.

So what are the key drivers of physician engagement? Well, a recently published national multidisciplinary survey by Physician Wellness Services and Cejka Executive Search speaks to exactly this question. They asked physicians (novel concept) – “What is important to you to feel engaged?” The top five answers were:

1. Respect for my competency and skills
2. Feeling that my opinions and ideas are valued
3. Good relationships with my physician colleagues
4. Good work/life balance
5. A voice in how my time is structured and used

Ask yourself how you would respond to these questions based on your work here at Upstate. I know that there are many of you who feel quite positive about the work you are doing here. But I also know that there are many of you who would not answer positively to all five questions.

Over the coming months I plan to work together with the President of the Medical Staff and the Departmental Chiefs to gain a better sense of the barriers to answering positively. Why? Because I continue to believe that Upstate can be a truly great hospital. And a truly great hospital needs engaged physicians.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE LEARNING COMMUNITIES – A NEW INITIATIVE JULIE R. WHITE, PH.D

Our medical school student body is divided into smaller co-horts that have community-established identities. Each community is made up of students from each of the four classes and is facilitated by a team of faculty and professionals. Our learning communities, each taking the name of a finger lake, take the form of five distinct societies with the following characteristics:

- 128 students per society (32 students from each of the four classes)
- Chair and Co-chair (well respected and experienced clinical faculty member and/or clinical department chair)
- Eight Clinical Advisors (paired to facilitate four small groups per community)
- Basic Science Advisor
- Student Affairs Advisor
- Student Advisors

The purpose of the learning community model at Upstate is three-fold:

1. To build strong community and pride among students
2. To offer the very best advising and career development for students
3. To facilitate a culture of professionalism and wellness

Societies meet regularly throughout the academic year in both social and educational contexts. Three times each year there are full society meetings/gatherings that may blend social interaction with an educational message. In addition, there are targeted, population specific sessions that serve to complement advising and career development and enhance comprehension of such things as professionalism, cultural competence and team work.

One of the things that leads to the success of learning communities is their identity. Such identities are tied to the roots and/or mission of the institution. Students are encouraged to “own” the identity through a project or shared goal.



The Schwartz Center Rounds®

A multidisciplinary forum where caregivers discuss social and emotional issues that arise in caring for patients

***Save The Dates, Put Them on Your Calendar,
Plan to be there and bring a colleague!***

WELCOME NEW MEDICAL STAFF & APC MEMBERS

First Tuesday of each of the following months:

October 7, November 4, December 2, 2014

March 3, April 7, May 5, 2015

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

Topics to be determined

East Tower 10405 A & B

All Hospital Staff Invited Refreshments

Caroline Daly, MD	Anesthesiology
Eric Keenly, MD	Anesthesiology
Brendan McGinn, MD	Anesthesiology
Ian Daly, MD	Family Medicine
Girish Trinka, MBBS	Medicine
Mark Colaneri, PA	Orthopedics
Nathan Everding, MD	Orthopedics
Brian Kistler, MD	Orthopedics
Gizelda Casella, MD	PM&R
Xiaoli Dong, MD	PM&R
Kunal Parikh, MD	PM&R
Krystle Williams, MD	PM&R
Christine Harrington, NP	Psychiatry
Nicolas Pauly, NP	Psychiatry
James Ferretti, DO	Radiology
Manish Gupta, MD	Surgery

Q. What are *The Schwartz Center Rounds*?

A. The Schwartz Rounds are multi-disciplinary case presentations and discussions that involve difficult ethical or emotional situations encountered with patients, families and perhaps, other staff. The Schwartz Rounds are presented as opportunities for the staff of University Hospital to share emotions and feelings and to learn from their experiences.

Q. How are *The Schwartz Center Rounds* different from clinical case presentations?

A. The Schwartz Rounds are not 'root cause' rounds. Rather, they are multidiscipline and hospital-wide forums where clinical care givers can share their experiences, thoughts and feelings around specific topics. The Rounds support caregivers and focus on their relationships with patients and each other. This is done by looking at the case from **a social and emotional perspective.**

The Schwartz Center Rounds are open to all staff of University Hospital: Physicians, residents, faculty, nurses, students, therapists, social workers, spiritual care, housekeeping and all other support staff

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Virginia Lawson, PhD, Coordinator, lawsonv@upstate.edu, 464-5604

The Schwartz Center Rounds program was initiated by the Dr. Daniel Burdick Compassionate Care Fund, established in 2013 by a generous founding gift from the children of Daniel and Billie Burdick. The gift honors Dr. Burdick's compassion for both patients and caregivers throughout his medical career as a surgical oncologist and general surgeon, and his foresight in recognizing the emotional toll of serious illness on care providers.

**Rounds are continuing thanks to administrative support
and additional funding from *The Friend In Deed Fund* and
*The Advocates of Upstate Medical University***

SCIP Surgical Care Improvement Project

Remember that unless documented as contraindicated, patients who are on beta blockers prior to surgery **SHOULD** receive them during the peri-operative period which includes the day before and the day of surgery as well as post operative days 1 and 2.



MEC MEMBERS

Bettina Smallman, MD; Medical Staff President,
Chair, Medical Executive Committee

(Pediatric Anesthesiology)

Mitchell Brodey, MD; Medical Staff Vice-President
(Medicine)

Robert Kellman, MD; Medical Staff Vice-President
(Otolaryngology)

Satish Krishnamurthy, MD; Medical Staff Treasurer
(Neurosurgery)

Colleen E. O'Leary, MD; Medical Staff Past President
(Anesthesiology)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Tamer Ahmed, MD; (Pediatric Surgery)

Sharon Brangman, MD; (Medicine)

Derek Cooney, MD; (Emergency Medicine)

Timothy Creamer, MD; (Medicine)

David Halleran, MD; (Colo-rectal Surgery)

Leslie Kohman, MD; (Thoracic Surgery)

Zulma Tovar-Spinoza, MD; (Neurosurgery)

Howard Weinstein, MD; (OB/GYN)

EX-OFFICIO, NON VOTING MEMBERS

Nancy Daoust, MS, FACHE; Chief Administrative Officer,
Upstate University Hospital at Community General

Gregory Eastwood, MD; Interim President, SUNY Upstate
Medical University

Beth Erwin, CPCS, CPMSM; Director, Medical Staff
Services

Sarah Fries, NP; Associate Director of Nursing for Advanced
Practice Services

William Grant, EDD; Interim Associate Dean for Graduate
Medical Education

Bonnie Grossman, MD; Associate Medical Director
(Emergency Medicine)

John McCabe, MD; Chief Executive Officer (Emergency
Medicine)

Nancy Page, RN; Chief Nursing Officer

Paul Seale, FACHE; Chief Operating Officer

AD HOC, NON VOTING MEMBERS

Robert Carhart, MD; Chair, Credentials Committee
(Medicine)

David Duggan, MD; Dean, College of Medicine, SUNY
Upstate Medical University; (Medicine)

Anthony Weiss, MD; Chief Medical Officer and Medical
Director (Psychiatry)