

# MEDSTAFF NEWSLETTER

## UPSTATE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

SEPTEMBER 2014

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<mailto:askmec@upstate.edu>

### MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL STAFF PRESIDENT BETTINA SMALLMAN, MD

#### THE MEDICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS!

Congratulations are extended to the following new officers of the Medical Executive Committee (MEC) who were recently elected to serve a two-year term beginning in January 2015.

President: Mitchell Brodey  
VP: Howard Weinstein  
VP : Leslie Kohman  
Treasurer: Satish Krisnamurthy  
APP Representative: Thomas Antonini

A special thank you is extended to the Members-at-Large and officers who are completing their terms this year:

Kara Kort, MD  
Derek Cooney, MD  
Colleen O'Leary, MD  
Robert Kellman, MD  
Lisa Cico, NP

We sincerely appreciate their dedication, commitment and service as representatives of the Medical Staff on the MEC.

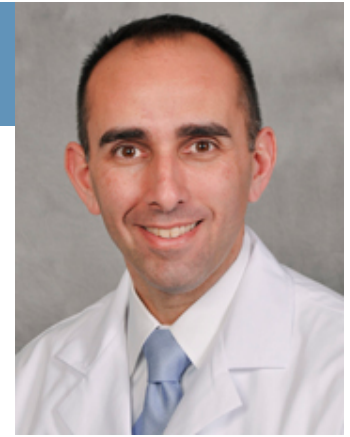
I would like to encourage you to consider serving on the MEC. Service as a member of this group is an important opportunity to have a voice in our organization! The MEC has a number of important roles: it is the decision-making body of the Medical Staff that is the last to rule on matters before they are brought to the board for approval; it provides oversight for all medical staff functions. Besides the coordination and implementation of clinically relevant policies, recommendation of matters relating to appointment and reappointment, a very important function is accountability for the overall quality of professional patient care services provided in the hospital. Equally important is oversight in the domain of ethical conduct and clinical competence. This may include a spectrum of activities including education, peer review, and the investigation and management of incidents. The MEC is the interface between the medical staff and the leadership of Upstate. Being a member provides you a unique opportunity to

act on behalf of your colleagues on issues of importance to all. We are currently seeking nominations for 5 new Members-at-Large to serve 2 or 3 year terms. We would be glad to welcome you as a new Member at Large of the Medical Executive Committee. The process used by the Nomination Committee includes: nomination by a colleague, or self nomination; and submission of a brief narrative of why you are interested in serving in this capacity, highlighting your experience or special interest in medical staff governance. Our monthly Medical Staff Newsletter lists your colleagues that are currently serving on MEC; by all means interact with any of our group to learn more. We very much hope that you will consider this important role and experience being part of a true decision making body as a representative of the Medical Staff.



Bettina Smallman, MD

## ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE ANTHONY P. WEISS, MD, MBA



This summer we saw an amazing phenomena known as the “ice bucket challenge” – a viral marketing campaign meant to raise awareness of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). In what seemed like a combination of chain-letter meets episode of Punk’d, people were challenged to either pour a bucket of ice water over their heads, or donate at least \$100 to ALS. The media attention brought incredible awareness to this otherwise ill-funded condition, raising over \$100 Million in the process. To me this shows the power of an idea and the ease by which positive things can be accomplished in the era of social networking.

All too often here at Upstate new ideas are quickly doused with metaphorical ice water. “We can’t do that here because...” is a common refrain, often joined with “we tried that here once.” While there may occasionally be a nugget of cold reality to the idea-killing concern, more often the rejoinder simply seems like a tired and easy way to maintain status quo and avoid the difficulties associated with change.

My “ice bucket challenge” for Upstate is to eliminate the ice water and try to remain open to new concepts, new ways of working together, new ways of caring for patients. As an academic medical center we should be way out in front of the pack in trying out these approaches, testing them, and letting others know what works (and what doesn’t). This type of innovation can be done in small increments, simple and sequential tests of change that gradually and safely improve what each of us do. At a time of tremendous challenge within healthcare, we need ideas, and we need people willing to try them out. Please join me in this challenge – our patients and the people of Syracuse are expecting this of us. Plus, I think this type of innovation can be invigorating, though perhaps not as much as pouring a bucket of ice water over your head...

## PHARMACY NEWS

### Reminder to Prescribers: Please provide specific reasons for administration of PRN orders

Per DNV standards, all orders that are written with an as needed frequency (PRN) require a reason for administration (i.e., pain, cough, itching, etc.). Although EPIC allows prescribers to choose “other” as the PRN reason for some medications, it is important that prescribers then enter a specific reason in the PRN comment. Please see screen shot below. Pharmacy and nursing have been noticing a significant number of PRN orders that do not have a specific reason given for administration. To ensure compliance with DNV standards, pharmacy will be contacting prescribers when necessary to enter a reason for administration prior to order validation. Pharmacy is working with EPIC to replace “other” with specific reasons whenever appropriate, but a choice for “other” will remain necessary for some medications. Prescribers are encouraged to review PRN orders closely in the ordering process and provide specific reasons for administration within the PRN comment box.

**sodium chloride (OCEAN) 0.65 % nasal spray 2 spray** Accept Cancel  
2 spray, Each Nare, PRN, Starting Today at 1020, For 30 days

Reference Links: 1. Lexi-Comp

Dose: 2 spray 1 spray 2 spray

Administer Dose: 2 spray  
Administer Amount: 2 spray

Route: Each Nare Each Nare Right Nare Left Nare

Frequency: PRN reason/comment is missing

PRN PRN

PRN reasons:  Other  Congestion

PRN comment:

For: 30  Doses  Hours  Days

Starting: 9/18/2014 Today Tomorrow At: 1020

Starting: Today 1020 Ending: Sat 10/18 1019 Show Additional Options

i There are no scheduled times based on the current order parameters.



# The Schwartz Center Rounds®

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

## ***Frustration with Unrealistic Demands/Abusive Actions***

WELCOME  
NEW MEDICAL STAFF  
&  
APC MEMBERS

Carmen Martinez, MD	Neurology
Eufrosina Young, MD	Neurology
Alfredo Lopez, MD	OB/GYN
Scott VanValkenburg, MD	Orthopedics
Katherine Fry, MD	Pediatrics
Courtney Amedro, NP	Pediatrics
George Annas, MD	Psychiatry
Kalliopi Petropoulou, MD	Radiology
Lorena Gonzalez, MD	Surgery
Jessica Gmyr, PA	Surgery
Lucy Ruangoravat, MD	Surgery

Continuing Medical Education (CME)  
credits available

Tuesday, October 7, 2014  
3:45 – 4:45 pm

East Tower 10405 A & B

All Staff Invited  
Refreshments

Panelists:

John “Todd” Leggat, MD  
Lisa Crawford, RN, MS  
Jeff Rew, PA

Facilitator: Tom Quinn, Special Assistant to Senior VP for Hospital Affairs

Physician Champion:  
Colleen O’Leary, MD

- *This case illustrates the **frustration** of being caught between some patients’ sense of entitlement and wiliness to manipulate (even lie) and the reality of what treatments and services can be offered.*
- *Caring for patients in this situation challenges our emotions, our stamina.*
- *The Schwartz Rounds multi-disciplinary case presentations and discussions provide the safe, confidential forum for sharing lessons, expressing frustrations, or grieving.*
- *The Schwartz Rounds are open to all staff of University Hospital: Physicians, residents, faculty, nurses, students, therapists, social workers, spiritual care, housekeeping and other support staff.*
- For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Lawson, PhD, Coordinator, [lawsonv@upstate.edu](mailto:lawsonv@upstate.edu), 464-5596.

*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***

## MEDICAL STAFF BYLAWS - INFLUENZA

The Medical Staff bylaws were updated earlier this month to require annual influenza vaccines for Doctors and Health Professionals.

**Those who fail to adhere to this bylaw provision will have their hospital privileges suspended 72 hours after the start of flu season is announced by the NY State Health Commissioner.**

To provide verification of vaccination from another facility, please fax a document showing the name of vaccine recipient, the name of the provider administering the vaccine, the type of vaccine administered and the date of administration to Employee Student Health at 315.464.5471. The following form is available for use if needed: <http://www.upstate.edu/health/pdf/flu-vac-doc.pdf>

For questions about the bylaw change, please e-mail [AskMEC@upstate.edu](mailto:AskMEC@upstate.edu) or discuss your concerns with any member of the Medical Executive Committee.



## 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)