In the Calendar

Medical Grand Rounds. 6/20. 8:30 a.m. Wsk. Hall, Medical Alumni Aud. See Update calendar inside.

Central New York Researchers embark on study to investigate air quality as it relates to asthma in children

Findings from numerous studies link outdoor pollutants to asthma in infants and children. However, relatively few studies, nationally and none locally, have looked at or measured multiple pollutants within residential properties that may cause the onset of asthma.

In the first of a proposed three phase study, researchers at SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse University and SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry (ESF) are identifying, collecting, measuring and studying respirable pollutants in the homes of newborns in urban Syracuse. Their findings will provide the baseline information needed to develop new, cost effective household products and services that could alleviate or rid homes of pollutants, possibly preventing the onset of asthma in newborns. The findings could also aid the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in establishing standards and controls for indoor air quality in households.

The phase one study initiated by Andrew Hunt, PhD, research associate professor of pathology at SUNY Upstate, began in late 2001 and should be complete in approximately 18 months. Principal

University Hospital mock drill a success

Like a domino effect, imagine a natural disaster occurring, such as a major snowstorm that caused a 20-car pile up and a chemical spill from a truck that slid off a road. Masses of victims require hospital care and University Hospital staff are unable to come to work because the county has declared a snow emergency. In an incident such as this, would University Hospital be prepared to take on additional patients while still providing care to its existing patient population? Would the hospital have enough supplies and staffing and would it have the capability of providing effective communications to its internal and external populations?

According to Hospital Chief Operating and Nursing Officer Ann Sedore, RN, PhD, University Hospital staff has responded successfully to less complex scenarios in the past. However, she adds, the key to success in dealing with more complex scenarios, is to offer mock drills throughout the year, to document the role(s) of each person/department and to continue to re-eval-

Take Note

Health Sciences Library updates copy card system

The Health Sciences Library is updating its copy card system with a new multi-dimensional system that can be used for other services besides copying. The new system will have a monetary value on the card rather than a number value. There will no longer be a charge for the card itself. Old cards may be exchanged at the circulation desk for the new cards. The library will keep one Xerox BK35 copier connected to the old card system until July 1. This machine will be located in the basement copy room.

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Wednesday, June 5
Pediatric Teaching Day.
“Pediatric Nephrology and Urology.” 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. OnCenter.
Anesthesiology Grand Rounds.
7 a.m. Wsk. H all, Medical Alumni Aud.
Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences Grand Rounds. 7 to 8 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.
Surgical Grand Rounds. “The Evolution of the Surgical Management of Breast Cancer.” Presenter: Kara Kort, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 8 a.m. 6500 University Hospital. Call 464-3600 for more information.
Health Sciences Library Tour. Noon. Meet at New Book area.
Combined Infectious Diseases Conference. 4 p.m. 118 University School of Medicine. Call 464-3600 for more information.
Neurology/Neurosurgery Grand Rounds. Topic: N eurology. Presenter: Juan Sanchez, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 4 p.m. 6500 University Hospital.
Burn Survivors Support Group. 5 to 7 p.m. 6408 University Hospital. Call 464-3600 for more information.

Thursday, June 6
Conference. “Alzheimer’s 2002” for health care professionals and caregivers. 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Justin’s Grill and Conference Ctr. Call 464-5167 for more information.

Family Medicine Faculty Development Program.
“Identifying Future Faculty Development Topics.” Presenters: Peter Beatty, Ph.D., New York State Area Health Education Center and John Smucny, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 8 a.m. “Ethics in a Short White Coat.” Presenters: Kathy Faber Langendoen, M.D., and Catherine Caldcott, M.D., Center for Bioethics and Humanities. 9 to 10 a.m. Suite 216 Madison Irving Medical Center. Call Coleen Fletcher at 464-7027 for more information.
Medical Grand Rounds.
“Treatment of Hospital Acquired Pneumonia.” Presenter: James Sexton, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 8:30 a.m. Wsk. H all, Medical Alumni Aud.
Urology Grand Rounds.
“Antenatal Diagnosis and Intervention for GU Abnormalities.” Presenter: Maria Small, M.D., Yale University School of Medicine. 9 to 10 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.
Employee Recognition Day.
 Begins 11 a.m. OnCenter.
Psychiatry Grand Rounds.
“Neuroimaging and Neuropathological Studies of Depression: Implications for the Cognitive-Emotional Features of Mood Disorders.” Presenter: Wayne C. Drevenets, M.D., National Institute of Mental Health. 12:30 to 2 p.m. PBS Bldg.
Friday, June 7

Course. “Adult and Family Nurse Practitioner Certification Review and Update Course.” See 6/7 Calendar listing.

Saturday, June 8
Course. “Adult and Family Nurse Practitioner Certification Review and Update Course.” See 6/7 Calendar listing.

Sunday, June 9
Course. “Adult and Family Nurse Practitioner Certification Review and Update Course.” See 6/7 Calendar listing.

Monday, June 10
New Product Fair. 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1311 University Hospital. Call 464-4964 for more information.

Tuesday, June 11
New Product Fair. See 6/11 Calendar listing.

Wednesday, June 12
New Product Fair. See 6/12 Calendar listing.

Thursday, June 13
Medical Grand Rounds.
“Geriatric Anemia and Cognitive Function.” Presenter: Chandra P. Belani, M.D., University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. 8:30 a.m. Wsk. H all, Medical Alumni Aud.
Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences Grand Rounds. 7 to 8 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.
Surgical Grand Rounds. “PET in Oncology, Part II.” Presenter: F. Deaver Thomas, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 8 to 9 a.m. 103 Wsk. H all.

Orthopedic Surgery Grand Rounds.
“Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs: Considerations in Orthopedics.” Presenter: Michael Avnir, M.D. 8 to 9 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Pediatric Grand Rounds.
“Using an EMR to Improve the Quality of Care of Pediatric Patients.” Presenter: Roy Ephraim Schutzenegel, M.D., Wang Health Care Corp. 9:15 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds.
“Initial Care of the Severely Head Injured Patient: Clinical and Social Implications.” Presenter: Frank S. Szmalc, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 11 a.m. to noon. 318 Health Sciences Library.

Health Sciences Library Tour. Noon. Meet at New Book area.

Combined Infectious Diseases Conference. 4 p.m. 118 University Hospital.

Neurology/Neurosurgery Grand Rounds. “N eurology.” Presenter: Christina M atei, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 4 p.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Friday, June 7

Visit Upstate Update on the web at: www.upstate.edu:80/hr/update/
Psychiatry Grand Rounds.  
12:30 to 2 p.m. PBS Bldg.

Microbiology/Immunology Seminar. “Oncolytic Viral Therapy of Oral Cancer Using Herpes Simplex Virus Type-1.” Presenter: Emil Lou, M.D./Ph.D student, Upstate Medical University. 1 p.m. Wsk. H all, M edical Alumni Aud.

Friday, June 14  
Obstetrics/Gynecology Grand Rounds. “Updates in Urogynecology.” Presenters: Prema Kothandaraman, M.D. and M. M. asood Naim, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. M arley Education Ctr., S ulzle Aud.

Workshop. “How SUNY Upstate’s CSEA and PEF Employees’ Paychecks are Calculated.” 9 a.m. to noon. C.A.B., East Lounge. Call Payroll Services at 464-4840 to register.

Monday, June 17  

Tuesday, June 18  

Wednesday, June 19  
Anesthesiology Grand Rounds. 7 a.m. Wsk. H all, M edical Alumni Aud.

Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences Grand Rounds. 7 to 8 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.


Surgical Grand Rounds. “Presentations of Resident Teaching and Frederick Hyde Teaching Awards.” Presenter: Paul Cunningham, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 7:45 to 8 a.m. “Approaches to Challenging Surgical Problems.” Presenter: Dilip Kittur, M.D., ScD, Upstate Medical University. 8 to 9 a.m. 103 Wsk. H all.

Orthopedic Surgery Grand Rounds. Presenter: Rajesh Jain, M.D. 8 to 9 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Pediatric Grand Rounds. “Prevention of Kermiterus.” Presenter: David Adamkin, M.D., University of Louisville, Norton Children’s Hospital. 9:15 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Health Sciences Library Tour. Noon. Meet at New Book area.

Professional Liability Open Forum. “A Conversation with the Office of Professional Discipline: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities.” 1 to 3 p.m. 6500 University Hospital. Call 464-6177 to pre-register.

Combin Infectious Diseases Conference. 4 p.m. 118 University Hospital.

Neurology/Neurosurgery Grand Rounds. “Neurosurgery.” 4 p.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Thursday, June 20  
Medical Grand Rounds. “Non-Pharmacologic Treatment for CHF.” Presenter: Richard Lewis, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 8:30 a.m. Wsk. H all, M edical Alumni Aud.

Urology Grand Rounds. “Over Active Bladder.” Presenter: Phillip Aliota, M.D., SUNY Buffalo. 9 to 10 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds. 12:30 to 2 p.m. PBS Bldg.

Friday, June 21  
Obstetrics/Gynecology Grand Rounds. “Laparoscopy.” Presenter: Jamesine Williams, M.D., Upstate Medical University. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. M arley Education Ctr., S ulzle Aud.
Family Medicine Faculty Development Program is June 6

The Department of Family Medicine will hold its Faculty Development program Thursday, June 6 from 8 to 10 a.m. in Suite 216 Madison Irving Medical Center. The program is approved for 2.0 continuing medical education credits. All faculty from the Department of Family Medicine are invited to attend.

The first presentation, “Identifying Future Faculty Development Topics,” will be presented from 8 to 9 a.m. by Peter Beatty, PhD, central regional director of the New York State AHEC (Area Health Education Center), and John Smucny, MD, assistant professor of family medicine at SUNY Upstate.

The second presentation, “Ethics in a Short White Coat” will be presented from 9 to 10 a.m. by Kathy Faber-Langendoen, MD, director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities and Medical Alumni Endowed Professor of Bioethics at SUNY Upstate and Catherine Caldicott, MD, assistant professor in the Center for Bioethics and Humanities.

For more information, contact Coleen Fletcher at 464-7027.

Upstate to hold CHUA informational lunch June 17

Upstate Medical University will present an informational luncheon program to provide an open forum for discussion of the Committee for the Humane Use of Animals (CHUA) application and review process Monday, June 17 at noon in 103 Weiskotten Hall. Investigators and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend and to bring issues of concern regarding this process for discussion.

The informational session is hosted by Upstate’s chair of the Committee for the Humane Use of Animals and the director of Laboratory Animal Resources.

The deadline to RSVP is Monday, June 10. For more information, contact Renee Griswold at 464-6563 or email: griswolr@mail.upstate.edu.

NYS Merit System is topic of workshop June 18 and 19

The workshop “NYS Merit System: How to Make It Work for You,” will be held Tuesday, June 18 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, June 19 from 8 to 11 a.m. in the East Lounge of the Campus Activities Building.

Lori Santos of the New York State Civil Service Career Mobility Offices will address basic information on various aspects of the NYS Merit System, such as types of examinations, eligible lists and appointments. This course will provide employees who wish to obtain a position that requires a Civil Service examination with an overview of the NYS Merit System.

It will also help participants to identify and describe different career mobility options, including transfers and reassignments; assess how various career moves/changes can impact a career; explain the various types of examination announcements, filing procedures, tests and resulting lists; list all types of appointments and describe their impact on exam eligibility; and define the role that the job classification and reclassification process plays in new job opportunities. Seating is limited; the deadline to register is Tuesday, June 11. To register, call Sandy Hutt at 464-5463 or email HUTTS. Questions regarding the workshop should be referred to Donna-Marie Parker at 464-4830.

Adult and Family Nurse Practitioner Certification Review and Update Course is June 7

The Adult and Family Nurse Practitioner Certification Review and Update Course will be held Friday, June 7 through Sunday, June 9 at the Holiday Inn Liverpool Convention Center. The course provides 19.2 contact hours and prepares ANP and FNP participants for the ANCC and the AANP national certification exams or to serve as a review course for already certified practitioners. Call 464-4276 for more information.
New OR Security Systems

The Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC), ASC operating room, located on the third floor of University Hospital, and the East Wing, CCC OR or Main OR, located on the fifth floor of University Hospital has implemented a security system for each area. These systems will automatically lock and unlock each unit so that only authorized personnel may enter during the programmed hours. The OR units will lock nights, weekends and holidays and unlock during normal business hours. Individuals must have a valid SUNY ID card that is specifically authorized to access each OR when locked.

The card reader for the ASC operating room is located across the hall from the hospital’s main elevators near the double door entry to 3N. The card reader for the main operating room is located across the hall from the patient care elevators on 5E. To enable an ID card, email Michael Garver, garverm@upstate.edu, with your name, phone number, department, title, supervisor’s name, the 16-digit ISO number from the front of your ID card, and a brief description of why you need access to the unit.

Professional Liability Open Forum June 19

A Professional Liability Open Forum, a quarterly risk management series for all licensed Upstate professionals, will be held Wednesday, June 19 from 1 to 3 pm in 6500 University Hospital. The topic is “A Conversation with the Office of Professional Discipline: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities.” Call Shari Perkins at 464-6177 to register.

New Product Fair is June 11 and 12

University Hospital clinical staff are invited to attend a New Product Fair, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 11 and 12 in 1311 University Hospital. The fair will be held from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will showcase the following new products and provide information on: suction catheter kits, updates to the VAC System policy; scrubs, linen usage and cost; Painbuster; and Lumbar Drain, among other products. Call Barb Riggall at 464-4964 for more information.

Miracle Champion ties up reins at University Hospital

Miracle Champion, the Parade of Horses statue honoring the Central New York Children’s Miracle Network, is on permanent display on the corner of East Adams Street and the University Hospital traffic circle. The horse was painted by Susan Keeter, assistant director of creative services, who used children’s art work to create the colorful horse. In addition, the horse is decorated with the names of 92 children, who donated money to the CMN. In front of Miracle Champion are, from left: CMN Director Toni Gary, H. W. Smith Elementary School student Neil Damron, who provided art work to decorate the horse (he is the son of Upstate employees Timothy and Leatha Damron), H. W. Smith Elementary School Principal Sharon Brinkrandt, and Keeter. The horse was sponsored by the law firm Hancock and Estabrook.
Close to 300 students from SUNY Upstate’s four colleges received their degrees before family, friends, and faculty during ceremonies held May 19 at the Crouse Hinds Theater of John H. Mulroy Civic Center. Speaker and honorary degree recipient W. French Anderson, MD, known as the father of gene therapy, stressed to the graduates the importance of using gene therapy wisely and only when the outcome will serve to manage or cure life-threatening disorders. C. Barber Mueller, MD, a pioneer in the field of breast cancer research, also spoke to graduates and received an honorary degree.

Other activities of commencement weekend included awards ceremonies and receptions. A special address by Kathy Urschel was made to College of Health Professions’ graduates during the college’s awards ceremony. Urschel, a former physical rehabilitation patient at SUNY Upstate, was a member of a six-person biking team that pedaled across America from California to Georgia, setting a world record by completing the journey in only six days and 21 hours. She received a New York State Senate Woman of Distinction 2000 Award.
Are you ready for the Corporate Challenge?

Tues., August 6th   6:25 p.m.   Onondaga Lake Parkway

SUNY Upstate Medical University On-site Registration

Date: Thursday, June 20 & Wednesday, July 10
Time: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Place: Second floor lobby, University Hospital
To Register: Bring signed Runner’s Release Form
(Forms are available at Hospital Information desk, Weiskotten Information desk & CAB Cafeteria)

Eligibility: All participants must be actively employed and paid by SUNY Upstate Medical University for a minimum of 25 hours per week for at least three months prior to race day.
18 years of age or older

Deadlines & Fee: Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable
Register by Tuesday, June 25: $13
Register after Tuesday, June 25: $16
Final Registration Deadline: Thursday, July 18
Forms received after this date will not be accepted.

*T CASH or checks payable to “Faculty Student Association”

T-SHIRTS: You must register by July 10th to receive a shirt.
Shirts and Numbers will be available for pick up on Monday, August 5th from 11-1:30 in the 2nd floor lobby of University Hospital, or at the event.

To Register by Mail: Mail your registration forms and checks to:
Becky Cerio
Marketing & University Communications
250 Harrison Street, 4th floor

For more information: Call Becky at 4-4845 or cerior@upstate.edu or team captain Ron Westbrook at 4-7371 or westbror@upstate.edu
University Hospital’s Upstate Stars Employee Recognition Team recently selected the winners of the First Annual Hospital Recognition Awards. The award recipients were honored during ceremonies held in University Hospital on May 13, the opening day of National Hospital Week.

The Upstate Stars Recognition Awards program recognizes University Hospital staff for exceptional service to the hospital and to patients in 2001. The program is an activity of University Hospital’s Upstate Stars Employee Recognition Team, under the auspices of hospital administration.

Individual winners each received a plaque, certificate, and a $100 savings bond. The Team of the Year recipients received a plaque, certificates for each individual on the team, and a $100 party from Sodexho.

Months prior to the ceremony, all University Hospital staff received a nomination form with a cover letter explaining the awards program. Individuals wishing to nominate a hospital employee for an award were asked to complete a form and return the form to the recognition team for review. One winner in each of four categories was selected. Congratulations to the following award recipients:

Team of the Year

The Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Team from 4B received the University Hospital Team of the Year award for 2001. The team consists of team leader Joseph Papini, Karen Hirschman, Anne Marie Buss, Lou Ann Wilson, and Pat Robinson.

During the past year, the DBT Team on 4B has developed an innovative and evidenced-based program for patients with borderline personality disorder. This program has improved clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction, while decreasing length of stay and need for readmission.

With the support of Onondaga County, the group volunteered to receive training, become certified, and establish a DBT program. The amount of time required in training and implementation greatly exceeded standard working hours. Although other hospitals have attempted to establish a DBT program, most have failed because of the time and effort needed for implementation.

University Hospital is the only hospital in Central New York and one of only a select few in the nation that provides integrated inpatient and outpatient DBT treatment.

The program has received commendations from the Office of Mental Health and JCAHO after their 2001 site visit to University Hospital.

Outstanding Contribution of the Year

Pamela Lamb, physical therapy assistant in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM & R), has received the 2001 University Hospital Outstanding Contribution of the Year award.

Lamb, a PM & R employee for 19 years, is the cornerstone of the Manual Lymphedema Drainage Program. Through self-directed research and education, she developed this treatment program to address a complication of breast cancer surgery. The treatment program is the first of its kind in Central New York and includes manual massage, bandaging, exercise and patient and family education.

To create greater community awareness of this medical problem, Lamb has presented to the local American Physical Therapy Association, spoken on local radio programs during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and has had articles published in the Physician’s Digest and The Herald Journal.

Supervisor of the Year

Katharine M ooney, patient service director for the Intermediate Care Unit, Medical/Surgical ICU, and SA, has received the University Hospital Supervisor of the Year award for 2001.

M ooney has risen to the challenge of expanding her supervisory responsibilities in assuming the management of three units. An important element to her success as an outstanding supervisor is her commitment to continuing education of both herself and her staff. She recently received certification in Advanced Nurse Administration, a difficult exam that she passed on her first attempt.
M ooney maintains a stable and content workforce, adequate staff, and financial efficiency. This commitment is demonstrated by her role as facilitator of the Recognition, Retention and Recruitment committee for the Medical/Surgical ICU. Mooney is known for providing guidance and fostering independent critical thinking. By her example and support, she encourages her staff to strive for and achieve their full potential.

**Employee of the Year**

Linda McAleer has received the University Hospital 2001 Employee of the Year award. McAleer has been a University hospital employee for more than 10 years and has been a nurse manager at University Health Care Center for the last five years.

McAleer deserves recognition on many levels. She embraced the challenge set forth by the World Health Organization, Healthy People 2000, to attain a 90 percent immunization compliance rate by the time a child is 24 months old. In 1997 the immunization compliance rates for the Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic were 68 percent. Due to her ambitious campaign with the staff’s support, the January 2002 clinic immunization rates had increased to 86 percent. This impressive improvement was recognized by the Center for Disease Control and they invited Linda to present her strategies for increasing immunization rates.

She has been a strong force in meeting the changing needs of University Hospital’s culturally diverse patient population and was instrumental in developing several new programs. The innovative service she has implemented improves the staff’s cultural sensitivity to treat patients with the utmost respect. To improve patient service, she evaluates patient time spent at the clinic starting with registration and ending with discharge. These studies assist her with identifying areas of improvement.

**Friend in Deed and volunteer spirit alive and well at UHCC Women’s Imaging Center**

Upstate Medical University’s Friend In Deed campaign has funded the purchase of 160 pastel and white terry cloth robes for patients who receive care through the Women’s Health Mammography Program of the Department of Radiology, located at University Health Care Center (UHCC). The robes were the brainchild of UHCC radiology employees Gary Litvin, Linda Graves and Marilyn “Mickey” Dibble in their efforts to ensure patient comfort and dignity.

A Friend in Deed plaque is displayed at the UHCC Women’s Health Program to alert visitors to the Friend in Deed funding and to recognize Graves and Dibble for personalizing the robes by embroidering them with the letters “UHCC.”

Litvin was recognized for his efforts to secure the appropriate vendor, T. J. Lawford Mill, who sold the robes to UHCC at the wholesale price thanks in part to help from Kaufmann’s Department Stores.

For more information about the Friend in Deed annual fund or other programs administered by the Upstate Foundation, call 315-464-4416, or visit http://isupport.upstate.edu.
Central New York Researchers Embark on Asthma Study continued from page 1

Investigators of the study are Dr. Hunt and Jianshun Zhang, PhD, associate professor, Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering at Syracuse University. Co-investigators on Dr. Hunt’s study include Jerrold Abraham, MD of the pathology department at Upstate, Ran Anbar, MD, of the pediatrics department at Upstate, Theresa Hargrave, MD and Sandra Lane, PhD, of SUNY Upstate.

Dr. Hunt’s field study involves the identification, collection and measurement of indoor pollutants. Dr. Zhang’s laboratory study uses the information gathered from the field study to test a variety of methods to mitigate the pollutants and to develop an indoor air quality model.

This first phase of the study is funded through a $2 million U.S. EPA grant to the New York Indoor Environmental Quality Center (NYIEQ) in partnership with the Metropolitan Development Association of Central New York. NYIEQ serves as study administrator and provides project oversight. The funding was obtained with the assistance of Congressman James Walsh.

The AUDIT study

Dr. Hunt’s study is called “Assessment of Urban Dwellings for Indoor Toxics,” or AUDIT. It will provide baseline data on respirable indoor pollutants and associated risk factors that contribute to adverse respiratory health effects, primarily asthma in infants and children who reside in urban Syracuse. Urban Syracuse was selected because findings from national studies indicate a higher incidence of asthma in infants and children who live in urban centers.

When AUDIT is complete, 100 homes of infants whose mothers have had a previous diagnosis of asthma will be studied and measured for pollutants that may trigger and affect the switching-on process of asthma.

“Asthma is a condition of the lungs where widespread narrowing of airways occurs by the local release of substances, such as histamines, in the course of an allergic process. If we can identify the culprit(s) and at what level that they are likely to cause an allergic reaction, then we are better able to introduce cost-effective measures in the homes to prevent the onset of asthma in newborns,” said Dr. Hunt.

The EPA has formal standards and controls for outdoor air quality. However, there are no such formal standards for acceptable levels of pollutants within a household.

“We are in essence creating are own standards of what we believe, scientifically, would be acceptable to humans in preserving their good health as it relates to asthma and other respiratory distresses,” he added.

AUDIT researchers are measuring the levels of particular contaminants in the study homes, creating a survey data-base of the indoor environmental quality and ventilation conditions in the study homes, measuring specific respiratory health endpoints of children in the study homes, identifying the relationship between the concentrations of individual indoor contaminants and adverse health effects in children, and identifying cost-effective mitigation practices which will control indoor pollutant hazards responsible for adverse respiratory health effects.

To identify the study homes, Dr. Hunt is working collaboratively with the Syracuse Community Health Center (study co-investigator Tanya Paul, MD), the Onondaga County Pregnancy Care Assistance Program (PCAP), St. Joseph’s Matal Child Health Care Center (study co-investigator Alfredo Lopez, MD), and Women’s Health Services at University Hospital’s University Health Care Center (study co-investigator Maria Czerwinski, MD).

“We have been recruiting expectant mothers who have had a previous diagnosis of asthma, would be likely to stay in their homes for one year and who would allow a nurse practitioner to examine the newborn baby on a quarterly basis throughout the year for possible changes in their respiratory function, among other factors,” said Dr. Hunt.

Researchers are using high resolution collection and measuring devices. A high efficiency vacuum cleaner is used to collect dust contaminants, and a large box that holds multiple instruments for the continuous measurement of pollutants in a 24-hour timeframe. The devices do not become a permanent household fixture, but rather are brought in for random and seasonal checks.

The household contaminants being studied are: insect and pet allergens (e.g. house dust mite, cat, dog and cockroach allergens); gaseous pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (e.g. gas stoves/pilot lights, wood stoves, fireplaces, etc.), carbon monoxide (e.g. gas/kerosene space heaters, tobacco smoke, outside air); volatile organic compounds (VOC) (e.g. benzene) and ozone; airborne particles (fungi spores, and particles from indoors and outdoors); and other risk factors (e.g. dampness, temperature and relative humidity).

The fungal sport analysis is being directed by Drs. S. Anagnost and J. Wang at SUNY ESF. Laboratory analyses of the other substances are being performed at SUNY Upstate, Syracuse University and other private laboratory facilities throughout the country.

Dr. Zhang’s DISSECT study

The information gathered from the field study is then transferred to Dr. Zhang’s laboratory for further study. Dr. Zhang’s study is called “Development of Indoor Source Sampling and Environmental Control Technologies (DISSECT).” continued on page 11
Asthma study continued from page 10

Dr. Zhang and colleagues are using the information from the field study to assess the effectiveness of various methods, such as emission source control, ventilation, air purification and retrofit of building envelopes in mitigating the pollutants.

Specifically, DISSECT will develop a unique full-scale thermal and air quality test facility that can simulate the impact of outdoor environmental conditions on indoor air quality; determine and model the emission characteristics of contaminants and sources identified in the field study; and evaluate and develop an indoor air quality model using data collected from the field study.

Additional funding needed

According to Lee Davis, executive director of the NYIEQ, once the AUDIT and DISSECT phases are complete, additional funding will be sought for the final phases of the project.

“Phase two of the project, called “Cost-effective Living Environment Area Remediation, or CLEAR, will focus on the application of source control, ventilation, air cleaning and other remediation methods to alleviate the identified indoor environmental quality problems.

“The last phase called Mitigation Effectiveness Assessment Study Using Health Response Evaluations”, or M EASURE will provide the follow-up needed to measure whether or not the methods were effective, perhaps by following the newborns over many years. We could not progress to these next two phases without the important information netted from AUDIT and DISSECT,” said Davis.

Biomedical Sciences Retreat held at Welch Allyn-The Lodge on Sept. 25

The Biomedical Sciences Retreat will be held Sept. 25 at Welch Allyn-The Lodge. The all-day retreat will feature a keynote speaker (to be announced later), College of Graduate Studies faculty presentations and a student poster session. A continental breakfast, luncheon, and dinner will be served. The retreat is sponsored by SUNY Upstate's College of Graduate Studies. Registration is required. For more information, contact Sandi Granger at 464-7655.

Rain doesn't dampen the spirit behind Race for the Cure

Although a week of steady rain made the conditions less than favorable, The Susan Komen Foundation and approximately 6,400 participants still managed to raise close to $340,000 for breast cancer research through the Race for the Cure fundraiser. SUNY Upstate's Race for the Cure coordinator Janice Todeschini, reports that 145 employees registered for SUNY Upstate's team and that SUNY Upstate won the “Largest Hospital Team” award for the second year in a row.

SUNY Upstate's Cassandra Crane, (IMT customer support) finished second in the Female Overall Winner category with a time of 6:46, 21 minutes.

A few members of SUNY Upstate's Race for the Cure team pose for the cameras.

Change in tuition benefits for PEF-represented employees

The Public Service Training Program (PSTP) is offering PEF employees' two vouchers for tuition costs up to a maximum of $600 each in the following semesters:

Fall 2002 semester. Application deadline is July 15.

Spring 2003 semester. Application deadline is Dec. 16.

More information is available on the web at http://www.mdiassocllc.com/pstp_catalog.html or call Lynda Scalzo at (518) 473-3985. Voucher forms are also available from Organizational Training and Development, Barb Riggall at 464-4964 or email RIGGALLB.
Winners of the 2002 C. Bruce Dearing Writing Awards announced

Congratulations to the winners of Upstate Medical University’s 2002 C. Bruce Dearing Writing Awards. The winners were recognized at an awards ceremony held in April in the Weiskotten Hall Medical Alumni Auditorium. The award recipients and the titles of their winning entries are:

Anna Olson, MS III, received the grand prize in the student category for her story, “The Princess and the Plum.” Other student winners are Jay Dalal, MS I for “Parachute;” Teresa Pliskowski, MS II, for “Whenever It Rains;” Brenda Jobe, CON, for “Patterns of Knowing;” Mark Barreto, MS I for “An Unexpected Party;” Laurie Leonard, CON, for “The Jewel” and John Yowpa III, MS II for “A Father’s Will."

Barbara Silverstone of the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology, received the grand prize in the faculty/employee category, for her short story “Bessie.” Other winners are Peg Braungart, PhD, Center for Bioethics and Humanities, for “Last Rights;” Joan Cofrancesco, Nursing CP/IPU for “My Name Is Muier;” and Michael Gordon, PhD, from the Department of Psychiatry for “Dysthymia Quartet.”

Kristine Brindak, RN named patient service manager for CRU

Kristine Brindak, RN, has been named the patient service manager for SUNY Upstate’s Clinical Research Unit (CRU). Brindak has worked as a nurse in the CRU and holds a key role in planning for the upcoming relocation of the CRU to the Institute for Human Performance. Brindak’s office is located at 1249A Institute for Human Performance; her telephone number is 464-9018.

Brenda Rodriguez joins Postal Customer Council executive board

Brenda Rodriguez, supervisor of SUNY Upstate’s Mail Room, has been named an executive board member of the CNY Postal Customer Council. The Postal Customer Council coordinates programs that deliver current information to help local mail centers deal with changes in rates, security and technology.

SUNY Upstate Medical University

Kripula Yoga classes on campus beginning June 17

A nine-week summer session of Kripula Yoga will be taught by certified Kripula Yoga instructor Tony Riposa each Monday, beginning June 17 through Aug. 12, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the East Lounge of the Campus Activities Building. The cost is $54 per person and payment is due on the first class or before. The class size is limited to 30 people. To register, call Sarah-Lee Cleveland in the Employee Assistance Program at 464-5760 or Susan Wardwell at 464-5415.

Donate used paperback books to the Gift Shop

University Hospital’s Gift Shop is requesting donations of current used paperback books in good condition that it can resell to the general public for $1. The money raised through the sale of the books benefits University Hospital patients and services. The Gift Shop is a program of Advocates for Upstate Medical University. To donate books or for more information, call the Advocates at 464-5610.

Note: Contact the Human Resources Department for address corrections.