

# update

DECEMBER 24, 2008 THROUGH JANUARY 7, 2009

## A letter to the SUNY Upstate community

We thank everyone who has given to SUNY Upstate Medical University's annual Community Giving campaign (CGC). SEFA/United Way agencies have touched the lives of hundreds of our own employees and thousands more in Central New York.

Currently, 1,516 employees have donated \$404,303. These figures represent a slight decrease from where we were last year at this time. We encourage everyone to consider a small donation to help us reach our goal of \$518,000 so we may continue our role as a community leader and help so many people in the process.

We extend our own mission to improve the health of the communities we serve by supporting local agencies.

Thank you for making a difference.

Individuals who need a pledge card are encouraged to contact their department representative or e-mail [paynej@upstate.edu](mailto:paynej@upstate.edu).

Hugh Bonner, PhD  
Steven R. Goodman, PhD  
Elvira Szigeti, PhD, RN

2008-09 CGC Co-chairs

## SUNY Upstate to test effects of lithium on ALS

SUNY Upstate Medical University is participating in a national clinical trial to determine if lithium, a mood stabilizer, can slow the disease progression of early stage Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in humans. According to Jeremy Shefner, MD, PhD, findings from a study conducted in Italy demonstrated that lithium showed neuroprotective properties in experimental animals and promising results in a small trial of ALS patients.

Dr. Shefner is SUNY Upstate's lead investigator of the study and professor and chair of the university's

Department of Neurology.

"To more fully study the effects of lithium in ALS, the National Institutes of Health /National Institute of Neurologic Diseases and Stroke, the ALS Association and the Canadian ALS Association has funded this important trial that we project will begin in early 2009," said Dr. Shefner. "As soon as we begin the study, we will recruit volunteers to participate in the trial. Patient volunteers may be included if they are within three years of their diagnosis and are not already taking lithium. Treatment will be for up to

one year," said Dr. Shefner.

Lithium is a simple chemical substance approved for use in humans and prescribed as a mood stabilizer. It protects neurons in the brain in animal models of neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, and has been recently shown to do the same in a mouse model of ALS. In that study, lithium prolonged survival and protected cells in both the brain and spinal cord. While the exact mechanism of lithium's effect is unknown, researchers have proposed it

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## Gala, Radiothon raise more than \$250,000 for patients

Central New Yorkers demonstrated their commitment to SUNY Upstate Medical University by raising more than \$252,000 at two major events presented in December by the Upstate Medical University Foundation — the Gala and the Sixth Annual Golisano Children's Hospital Radiothon.

"We thank Central New Yorkers for their continued support and are grateful for their commitment to help us meet the needs of our

*continued on page 2*



More than 800 people attended the Gala Dec. 12, raising more than \$200,000 for University Hospital's planned Upstate Cancer Center. Gala co-chairs, from left, are Orrin and Karen MacMurray, and Drs. Kristine Keeney and Jeffrey Bogart.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

**SUNY Upstate departments may request a summer intern through SUNY Upstate's President's Summer Internship/Mentoring Program.** The program is funded by the President's Office. Slots are limited. The application deadline is Jan. 5. To download a request form, visit [upstate.edu/affirmativeaction/internship.php](http://upstate.edu/affirmativeaction/internship.php) or call 464-5234 for more information.

**Dec. 31 is the deadline to receive a free Team Upstate T-shirt by logging in community service hours on the Team Upstate Web site [upstate.edu/teamupstate](http://upstate.edu/teamupstate).** Employees may log on via Self-Serve, enter username and password and click "Community Service" under the "My Information" menu. Students may log on via the Student ISIS Banner Web site, enter secure area, log in using the User ID and Pin, click personal information, then community service, click "add entry." Community service information may be entered at any time throughout the year.

**Central Distribution Services will conduct an inventory Jan. 10, beginning at 7 a.m.** Staff will respond only to emergency supply requests during inventory. To volunteer, call 464-2432.

**Mentors and second- and third-year medical students are invited to participate** in the Third Annual Career Advisory Network Dinners to be held Jan. 5 in Syracuse and Jan. 12 in Binghamton. The dinners give students the opportunity to network and share a meal with alumni, faculty, residents, and staff members who represent numerous medical specialties. The dinners are hosted by the College of Medicine Alumni Association and the Office of Student Affairs. For more information regarding the Syracuse dinner, call 464-4361 or email [medalum@upstate.edu](mailto:medalum@upstate.edu). For more information regarding the Binghamton dinner, call 607-772-3521. Invitations were mailed in early December.

**The Benefits Office in the Department of Human Resources announces a new employee discount program called SUNY Perks** that provides state and Research Foundation employees with a variety of discounts and offers on a wide range of brand name products and services. These offers can be accessed by visiting <http://suny.corporateperks.com>. When enrolling, select the appropriate campus domain from the list provided.

Employees who elect to use their campus e-mail address/system to access the program, should do so in accordance with Administrative Policy Manual (E-10) found at [www.upstate.edu/intra/policy/pdf/E-10.pdf](http://www.upstate.edu/intra/policy/pdf/E-10.pdf).

**Beginning Jan. 7, SUNY Upstate Medical University's newsletter, *Upstate Update*, will no longer be mailed to each member of the SUNY Upstate community.** A limited number of paper copies will be available at several campus locations. The newsletter will continue to be available online at [upstate.edu/publicaffairs/update](http://upstate.edu/publicaffairs/update).

**Nursing Job Shadowing Day, sponsored by University Hospital's Nursing recruitment Office,** will be held Jan. 7, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the East Lounge of C.A.B. Shadow Day participants will be paired one-on-one with a health care professional and interact with the professionals as they perform their normal daily activities. After the shadowing, participants will attend an afternoon reception to share their experiences and meet SUNY Upstate faculty and students. For more information, call 464-6149.

**Gala, Radiothon**—*continued from page 1*

patients," said Eileen M. Pezzi, vice president for development at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Hundreds of people gathered Dec. 12 at the Hotel Syracuse for 2008 Gala, raising more than \$200,000 in support of multifaceted cancer care at SUNY Upstate. The proceeds will be a stepping stone in the funding of SUNY Upstate's vision for an Upstate Cancer Center.

"This vision builds on the attention and resources SUNY Upstate is already committing to fighting cancer," said Pezzi. "Through its relentless and even groundbreaking pursuit of cures and treatments, SUNY Upstate has become nationally and internationally regarded for the comprehensiveness of its pro-

grams and expertise of its staff."

SUNY Upstate has earned the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons, that ranks SUNY Upstate in the top seven percent of cancer care facilities in the country.

The Sixth Annual Golisano Children's Hospital Radiothon raised more than \$52,000 through telephone pledges and the radiothon's Change Bandit campaign. The Radiothon was broadcast live on NewsRadio570 WSYR Dec. 4 and 5 from the second floor lobby at University Hospital. All money raised through the radiothon and its related activities remains in Central New York to benefit children who are treated at

University Hospital, home of the future Golisano Children's Hospital at Upstate, projected to open in fall of 2009.

"On behalf of the children and their families, I thank everyone who pledged or who made a direct contribution for their generosity," said Toni Gary, director of community relations for the upcoming Golisano Children's Hospital at Upstate.

NewsRadio 570 WSYR, Upstate Medical University Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network presented the radiothon. NewChannel 9—WSYR TV provided promotional support. Last year's event was held for three days and raised more than \$50,000.

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**

**WebCAIS/Groupwise Class (licensed).** 7:30 a.m. to noon. Classroom D, Institute for Human Performance.

• **Rev. Weez's Storytime.** Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

Friday, Dec. 26

**WebCAIS/Groupwise Class (unlicensed).** 7:30 a.m. to noon. Classroom D, Institute for Human Performance.

• **Mass.** Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

**Saturday, Dec. 27**

• **Mass.** 4 p.m. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

**Sunday, Dec. 28**

**HealthLink on Air.** 9 to 10 a.m. NewsRadio 570 WSYR-AM.

• **Mass.** Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

**Monday, Dec. 29**

• **Mass.** Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

**WebCais.** 1 to 3 p.m. Classroom D, Institute for Human Performance.

**Tuesday, Dec. 30**

**Workshop.** Workplace Violence: CPI Non-Violent Crisis Intervention." Noon to 8 p.m. 3507 Setnor Academic Bldg.

• **Weekly Prayer Service.** Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

**Spiritual Fitness.** 3 p.m. 2N, PM & R Dayroom, University Hospital.

**Infectious Diseases Conference.** "Pediatrics." 4 p.m. 304 Crouse Physician's Office Bldg., Irving Avenue, Syracuse.

**Wednesday, Dec. 31**

**Anesthesiology Grand Rounds.** 6:45 to 8 a.m. Medical Alumni Aud., Wsk. Hall.

• **Rev. Weez's Storytime.** See 12/24 listing.

**Friday, Jan. 2**

• **Mass.** See 12/26 listing.

**Saturday, Jan. 3**

**WebCAIS/Groupwise Class (unlicensed).** 7:30 a.m. to noon. Classroom D, Institute for Human Performance.

• **Mass.** See 12/27 listing.

**Sunday, Jan. 4**

**HealthLink on Air.** See 12/28 listing.

• **Mass.** See 12/28 listing.

**Monday, Jan. 5**

• **Mass.** See 12/29 listing.

**Third Annual Career Advisory Network dinner.** Ninth Floor Auditorium, Wsk. Hall.

**Tuesday, Jan. 6**

• **Weekly Prayer Service.** See 12/30 listing.

**Spiritual Fitness.** See 12/30 listing.

**Infectious Diseases Conference.** Frederick Rose, MD, Upstate Medical University. 4 p.m. 304 Crouse Physician's Office Bldg., Irving Avenue, Syracuse.

**Vascular Conference.** 5 p.m. 8800 University Hospital.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**

**Anesthesiology Grand Rounds.** 6:45 to 8 a.m. Medical Alumni Aud., Wsk. Hall.

**Otolaryngology Grand Rounds.** 7 to 8 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

**Surgery Morbidity/ Mortality Conference.** 7 to 8 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

**Orthopedic Grand Rounds.** 8 to 9 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

**Nursing Job Shadowing Day.** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. East Lounge, C.A.B.

**Neuroscience Grand Rounds.** Ravi Patel, MD, Upstate Medical University. 8 to 9 a.m. 103 Wsk. Hall.

**Surgery Grand Rounds.** 8 to 9 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

**Pediatric Grand Rounds.** 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

• **Rev. Weez's Storytime.** See 12/24 listing.

**Burn Survivors Support Group.** 5 to 7 p.m. 6551 University Hospital.

**Thursday, Jan. 8**

**SUNY Upstate New Employee Orientation.** 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. East Lounge, C.A.B.

**Medical Grand Rounds.** 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 1159 Wsk. Hall.

**Psychiatry Grand Rounds.** "Neuroimaging and EEG Predictors of Treatment Outcome in Major Depressive Disorder." Dan V. Iosifescu, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital. 12:30 to 2 p.m. PBS Building, 713 Harrison St. Syracuse.

**WebCAIS for Travel RNs.**

1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Classroom D, Institute for Human Performance. Contact Barb Bennett 464-9267 or e-mail bennettb@upstate.edu with questions.

**Friday, Jan. 9**

**SUNY Upstate New Employee Orientation.** 7 a.m. to noon. East Lounge, C.A.B.

**Obstetrics/Gynecology Grand Rounds.** 7:30 a.m. Sulzle Aud., Marley Education Ctr.

**Clinical Hands-on Practice Orientation (CHOP).** Noon to 3:30 p.m. East Lounge, C.A.B.

• **Mass.** See 12/26 listing.

**Saturday, Jan. 10**

• **Mass.** See 12/27 listing.

**Sunday, Jan. 11**

**HealthLink on Air.** See 12/28 listing.

• **Mass.** See 12/28 listing.

• Broadcast live from the Chapel on in-house Channel 40.

**ALS Study**—continued from page 1

promotes clearance of toxic protein accumulation.

The multi-site investigation will be a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial with 84 patients who will be randomized to either lithium or placebo. A review of data will occur after the 84th person is enrolled, and then a decision will be made on whether to expand the study to 250 patients. The disease course and safety assessments will be measured at regular intervals over that time.

The trial is being supported through The ALS Association's TREAT ALS (Translational Research Advancing Therapies for ALS) initiative, a drug discovery program and clinical trials process created by the association that accelerates discovery and testing of clinical candidates. In addition to SUNY Upstate, investigators from Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of Toronto and Columbia University will participate in the trial.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the

brain and the spinal cord. Motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body. When the motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost, leading to progressive paralysis.

For more information, call 464-5004.



Photograph by William Mueller

## Sweet treats celebrate success

*Quintin Hogle-Chapin, helped by his mom, receives a cupcake from Ellen Yeomans and Chris Arnold at a cupcake party held Dec. 12 to celebrate the success of Paige's Butterfly Run, an annual fundraiser to benefit children who receive medical care at University Hospital's Dr. William J. Waters Center for Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders. More than \$600,000 has been raised for the center since the run was established by Yeomans and*

*Arnold in 1996 in memory of their daughter, Paige. Yeomans and Arnold presented a check to the center for \$110,000, raised at this year's event held June 7 at the Federal Building Plaza in downtown Syracuse. Proceeds from Paige's Butterfly Run are used to help fund research into pediatric cancers, provide for children's programs and meet special needs of families whose children are treated at the center.*



This symbol represents **Engaging Excellence**, an initiative to challenge and encourage our employees to create the best workplace possible.

**Employees: To make address changes (i.e., building and/or room number), visit <http://selfserve.upstate.edu>**

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