



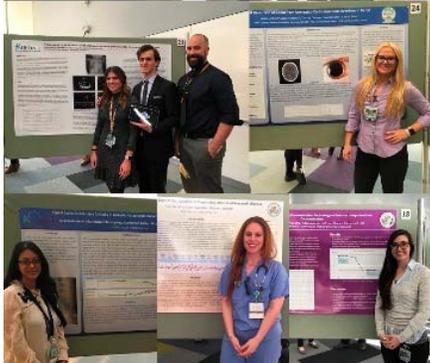
# Pediatric Crier

## Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

<http://www.upstate.edu/gch/academics/newsletter.php>

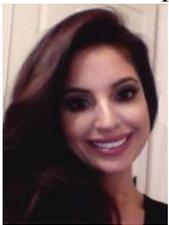
### Beyond the Doctorate Research Day

The Annual GME Beyond the Doctorate Research Day was held on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Several Peds residents presented posters this year. In fact, out of 40 total posters (submitted by residents, fellows, and research fellows hospital-wide), NINE of them were from our residents. That's almost a quarter. We are very proud of all of our residents who have been writing, publishing, and presenting this year!



### And the Winner Is....

Out of the 40 posters presented by residents, fellows, and Ph.D. students hospital-wide, it was our very own Iram Ashraf whose poster took first place among all of the poster presentations. The poster was entitled, "Follow-Up Skeletal Surveys: A Quality Improvement Project" and was co-authored by Drs. Shafer, Pekarsky, and MS-IV Danielle Faivus. Congratulations, Iram! This is a great honor and we are very proud of you!



### Advocating in Albany

*Dr. Carlee Lenhan*

A group of residents went to the NYS AAP Annual Advocacy Day meeting in Albany. We drove up early and had breakfast and conferences in the morning alongside some of the docs in the area who have been doing some great advocacy work here in upstate. There were busloads of pediatric residents from NYC and plenty of big brains to share inside scoop on budgeting and policies for our kiddos we take care of! We were able to advocate for policies and budgets including topics like vaccine requirements and age for consent, lead toxicity levels, and child care/early intervention programs. We learned a ton and were able to speak up on behalf of our patients. We were even able to have 1 on 1 time with a state senator Robert Antonacci II! We were advocating enthusiasts and had an amazing day!

We hope to make this event available for more to attend in the future to show support from our amazing Peds residency program! I attached the photo of us with the state senator below!!



### A perspective on international medical travel - *Dr. Moshe Roberts*

In February, I was lucky enough to return to Racho Grande, a rural and impoverished farming village in the Bajo Lempa region of El Salvador with Dr. Domachowske and an incredible medical team tasked with taking care of the roughly 100 high school teenagers who chose to volunteer during their spring break as well as the 100+ families who visited the clinic at Rancho.

Going on this trip puts into perspective things we take for granted. On the very first day of the trip we encountered 2 little boys with broken arms that would have immediately been repaired upon setting foot into any ER but because they live in El Salvador, they will never have full function of their elbow again. We also met a girl who was lucky enough to make it to San Salvador (a full day's journey by public buses from her home) where her osteosarcoma was diagnosed, her leg amputated and where she must go each time she needs chemotherapy or spikes a fever.

We brought donated medical supplies including a wheel chair for this girl, medicine, dentures and eye glasses and for many of these villagers it is the only medical attention they will have for the year. As physicians going to another country to provide primary care, it is so important not to do more harm than good, and this can be a fine line. Many groups go to other places in the region at the same time to provide similar service and the people look forward to this all year. They save up their medical problems to talk to the American (gringo) doctors who they may perceive to have all the answers. In this area many do not have access to other medical attention but in places where they do, this can undermine local clinics. Additionally, if visiting groups do not have excellent translation, it can be easy to gloss over or be dismissive of conditions we are unable to treat making the locals think that it's ok and preventing them from seeking further care (if the American Doctors didn't do anything about it, it must not be so serious). We are there for a short time and we know there is unlikely to be follow-up, so there are many things that we can't "fix" during our brief stay—poorly healing fractures, hypertension, chronic renal failure which is rampant in this region due to chronic dehydration and pesticides, however when possible or necessary we try to get people to someplace where they will receive help, be that San Salvador or a closer town. As

far as I know, we are the only such group who keeps detailed charts on each person we see and references last year's chart (and the problems we were and are still unable to help with) year to year.

We can cast a child's arm to try to prevent constant re-breaking while it heals, treat their parasites and we can recommend healthier life-style changes like more water and less ibuprofen, but often the challenges can seem overwhelming. However, there are times when we can use their perception of our "western training" to change daily life for the better. Our group worked to convince the villagers of the benefit of clean water and designated bathrooms and subsequently provided the infrastructure for permanent clean water pumps and sanitation stations (baños) that are now utilized by almost the entire village, and this year our medical team conducted air quality studies taking measurements throughout the village at various times of day looking for particulate matter and specific pollutants, and finding dangerous levels of both due to the dry climate and constant burning of garbage, a local custom out of necessity. One might think that the air in rural El Salvador should be cleaner than the city of Syracuse with all its cars and old industry, but this is not what the air testing indicated- perhaps something for next year's team to tackle.

I think everyone takes away something different from this trip. Our teenagers don't just go to see how poor people live- they could do that in Syracuse, but rather they live WITH them for a week and as ambassadors from Syracuse, form relationships and friendships that hopefully help them see that people are people, regardless where they are from and what privilege they were born into, and as such they deserve access to food, education and medical care- tenets that hopefully will resonate back in the US. As doctors, we leave having distributed a lot of medications and advice to our friends in Rancho, hopefully some good will, but most importantly having done no harm.



### The Exciting conclusion to Fun Feb

Last month we reported most of the results from Dr. Nelsen's Second Annual Fun February. There were four separate contests (Haiku, Meme, Valentine, and Caption contest). Chris Maierhofer won the first three contests but we did not have the results of the Caption contest at the time we went to press. The winner of the caption contest went to Samara Appelstein with *"\*Pushes code button\* They'll think twice about Q4 vitals overnight."*



At the end of the month there was a drawing for the two grand prizes. The Echo Show went to Ryan Surujdeo, who felt that Chris Maierhofer should have gotten it, so he gave it to Chris. Chris, in turn, felt that it should be shared by all of the residents so he donated it to the resident lounge. The other prize were two gift cards donated by Dr. Smith. Ripal Patel won the gift cards. Thanks to everyone for playing, and making February so fun!

### Record-Breaking Radiothon, Feb 28-Mar 1

The 2019 Radiothon held on Feb, 28 and Mar 1, was a huge success setting a new record at \$246,575 to benefit a variety of funds and programs that directly impact Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital services and patients (with more still trickling in after the event). Upstate Foundation once again partnered with iHeart Radio and CNYCentral to raise funds for Upstate Golisano. The main lobby of University Hospital was transformed into a radio studio as 16th Annual Radiothon for Kids benefiting Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital broadcasted live and our generous community responded as never before! We are so grateful to the stations, volunteers, and of course our Upstate community.



### Stars-of-the-Month

It has been a while since we have had a Pediatric star-of-the-month to announce. This month, we have two. First, a star goes to Scott Corrigan who actually switched his vacation week, so he could work one of his vacation days covering a fellow resident so she could attend a conference she was presenting at. That's a true star! The second goes to Sara Batool for her above-and-beyond support for the students working with her after one of their classmates passed away unexpectedly. One wrote, "she specifically has been so beyond supportive during this. We have been incredibly impressed with her. She has certainly set the example for how I hope to support those around me throughout the rest of my training." Scott and Sara, stop by sometime and pick out a prize from the Star collection!

### Gainful Employment

Congratulations to Hassan El Chebib who, after finishing his Peds ID fellowship and his peds residency, has accepted a faculty position at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, CT. He will be an attending physician in the Division of Peds ID at the CT Children's Med Ctr. It should be noted that he will be working with former resident and ID fellow, Nick Bennett who is now the Division Head of Peds ID. Congratulations, Hassan!

### Wild Bronchos

Dr. Soultan submitted the following picture taken just before Kristin Hornick's second successful bronchoscopy. She was surrounded by her supportive team.





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### Shovel Ready

Dr. Newmyer submitted the following in mid-March:

“A special thanks to pediatric residents Jake Anderson and Tyler Colangelo for their help to make access to our Children's Hospital easier given the recent winter weather. Since a late February snow storm, families have been unable to use the handicap spots in the children's hospital parking lot due to snow-covered sidewalks. Jake and Tyler thought it was time to clear the sidewalks for our families!



No patients were harmed in the clearing of this sidewalk. Voceras were on and nurses were aware of our whereabouts should a patient need have arisen!! Thank you for your devotion to our patients and families Jake and Tyler!!!”

### Proud as a Retired Peacock

Congratulations to Jay Peacock who retired at the end of February. The department sent him off with a retirement party on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.



### Welcome Baby Alek!

From Dr. Andi Shaw: “Our family is so happy to welcome this new baby girl into the clan! Baby Alek Susan Jok joined us 2/26 at 9pm... 7lb 13oz bundle of joy... we are truly enjoying newborn days! and older siblings Angeth & Madut are equally thrilled.



### Shamrock Runners

At least three members of the department represented us at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Tipperary Hill Shamrock Run on 3/10. This is a popular local event which drew close to 3000 runners.



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/11 Aarani Kandeepan, JP Ervoes
- 4/14 Joshua Kanji
- 4/20 Mide Ajagbe
- 5/28 Rohan Akhourri

### COMSEP Congrats!

Congratulations to Samara Appelstein and Josh Griesman who, along with coauthors John Eroes, Jennifer Nead, and Danning Huang had their poster accepted at the COMSEP annual meeting on 3/20 in St. Petersburg, FL. Jen Nead tells the Crier, "Samara and Josh did a fantastic job presenting their poster titled 'Improving Medical Student Comfort with Core EPAs through a Workshop for Calling Consults.' Faculty authors included Jen Nead and JP Ervoes. Henryk also attended - He had a blast at the beach but decided to take a power nap during the poster session."



### An APPD Teaser

Here is one of the first pictures received from the APPD (Association of Pediatric Program Directors) National meeting. Stay tuned for more next month.

