Jolly Good Fellows!
We are delighted at the results of the 12/13 match. All three of our PL3s who participated, matched in one of their top choices. Congratulations to Mike Bowler, who will be doing Peds Critical Care in Minnesota, Kendall Luyt, who will be going to Oklahoma City for Peds ED, and Avidah Rashed who is going to USC in sunny California for NICU. They join our previously matched fellows, Robyn Borsuk (Heme/Onc), Eric Keil (NICU) and Jasmin Moradi (PICU). We are very proud of all six of our 2018 fellows.

House/Faculty Holiday Party
The annual Housestaff/Faculty was held on Thurs, Dec 21 after morning conferences. Games were played, good food was shared, (some) santas were revealed, and it was a great way to kick off the beginning of the resident holidays. Congratulations to Chris Maierhofer who was the obvious win for the ugly sweater contest (it was probably the Christmas bulb in his ponytail that pushed him over the top in the competition).

There was also a fierce game of Family Feud between the residents (Team Appelstein, Shenberger, Vedella, and Ho ho ho), and faculty (Team Andrake, Berry, Kennedy and Trust). In the end, the faculty squeaked out a victory…. this time.

Dr. Karjoo’s Official Retirement
On November 29th, the Department hosted one last retirement party for Dr. Many Karjoo at the Century Club. The small reception included Dr. Karjoo, his family, and the GI staff who have worked with him for so many years. He is now officially retired (as of 12/31/17).

As Dr. Welch explained so well, “Manny has been an integral part of the GCH family for over two decades. Knowing the current size and expertise of our GI team, it may be hard to recognize that there was a time when the entire ‘team’ was just Manny! One of the biggest measures of his impact may be the numbers of our students and residents who have gone onto careers in GI--including three of our current faculty and Manny’s daughter!”

Dr. Beg shared the following thoughts with the Crier, “Happy Retirement to my mentor, teacher and Dad like person! We will miss your positive attitude, hard work and smiling face in our GI clinic. We wish you the best of luck in this new chapter of your life and will miss you!”

We will all miss Dr. Karjoo and wish him the very best!

A Really Baig Surprise!
On November 30th, the Division of Peds Pulm pulled off the ultimate surprise when an alleged late afternoon division meeting ended up being a lovely surprise baby shower for Dr. Aisha Baig.

Thanks to party planner and photographer LaShaun Jones for the pictures.

GI Board Certified!
Congratulations to one of our newest faculty members, Aamer Imdad, who had a trifecta of good news in December. First, he passed his Peds GI Boards (who hoo), he had a paper accepted in Clinical Infectious Diseases, and he had a brief commentary published on the WHO’s website, along with Dr. Domochevskis! That’s what we would call a great month!

The Curious Incident and the GCH
The Syracuse Stage and the GCH have been working on some collaborations, the first of which took place along with the production of the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night. This was a play about autism, and the lead actor actually had autism. On November 8th a panel discussion took place after the play, led by our very own Dr. Hank Roane, and included both the actor himself and Dr. Nienke Dosa. Our On-the-Scene Reporter, Dr. Moshe Roberts, shared the following:

The play (based on the book by the same name written by Mark Haddon) was fascinating in that it is all told from the perspective of an autistic young man, played perfectly by an actor on the autism spectrum. Briefly (and with no spoilers, read the book!) it was about a boy investigating the vicious murder of his neighbor’s dog all while trying to navigate his high school, complicated family problems and the world in general, which he sees differently than everyone else. Following the play there was a panel with our own Upstate Developmental team members including Drs Roane and Dosa as well as the star of the play. The panel opened with an interesting analysis of the ending from the actor's perspective, discussion of local services available for people with disabilities and also up and coming
research/clinical treatments for autism. The final scene ends with the main character passing his exams, which he has been agonizingly studying for, and declaring to his teacher that “I can do anything” to which she does not respond, however her facial expression says otherwise and the stage goes black. The panel agreed in their interpretation of this—although he (and many others on the spectrum) may be able to study enough to overcome some of their difficulties and pass any book test, that may not translate to success in being able to function in the real world socially and so the teacher is much more cautious and reserved. Dr. Roane reviewed his clinic's goals, which are to help address some of the problematic behaviors with autism—most notably feeding difficulties, aggression/self harm and stereotyped disruptive behaviors. One of the biggest challenges is translating success in the clinic which is a controlled setting to the home and outside world, similar to the ending of the play (translating exam success to job success). Dr. Dosa reviewed her clinic's role, which are to help address some of the problems with physical conditions like spina bifida, CP and other developmental problems and discussed community resources including athletic opportunities for disabled youth so they can still be active and even part of a team within their own individual abilities. Many audience members stayed and asked interesting questions so this was a nice way to familiarize the general community with an often misunderstood population.

Sensory-friendly performance of the Wizard of Oz at 3 p.m. on December 30th is scheduled for a special collaboration, welcoming to individuals who are on the autism spectrum or with sensory sensitivities and their families. Special accommodations will include lowered sound levels, reduced stage lighting and increased lighting in the theater to allow for easier movement. Several of the staff from Dr. Roane's clinic will be at the performance in order to support families who have brought affected children.


Where Are They Now?
Stergios Zacharoulis
We recently heard from former resident Stergios Zacharoulis (Class of 2000) who has had a rather long and interesting journey since finishing his training here at Upstate. After completing a Heme/Onc fellowship at Sloan Kettering, he received further training at Boston Children's, then accepted a faculty position at CHLA in Los Angeles. He then spent the past decade in London at Royal Marsden. He contacted us after accepting an offer that will bring him full circle, back to New York as Head of the Pediatric NeuroOncology Service at Columbia. While in London, Stergios met his lovely wife Leola. They have two beautiful daughters, Lena (3) and Roxani (7). It was wonderful to hear from Stergios and we wish him the best in his new position.

Nithi Lorlertratna
We also heard from former resident Nithi Lorlertratna (Class of 1998, Chief 1999) who returned to practice in Thailand after completing his training here. Nithi tells the Crier, “I think it’s about time to update you a little about my life. Starting with the biggest thing first: I have a boy! Actually he was born last January and is almost one year old now, so it’s not really something new. His name is Punn, and he is the center of everything in my life now. Punn will celebrate his first Christmas soon. We are exciting about that! We haven’t traveled much since the beginning of pregnancy, and no TV/movies at all since Punn’s birth (Sorry, AAP no TV policy!), so we don’t know much what’s going on out there. Please tell me how Upstate is in general. – Nithi”

Congratulations to Nithi on this wonderful new addition to your family!

January Dates to Remember:
1/26 - MidWinter Faculty/Resident dinner/dance - Sky Armory

Favorite December Moments:
Ho Ho Ho!
Five-month-old Macy giggles with Santa Dec. 12 at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. The annual visit marks the beginning of the holiday season at the children's hospital, with donations from community organizations and families pouring in to comfort hospitalized patients and their siblings. The part of Santa was played by Nick Caputo, who has been Santa's helper for nearly 30 years. The visit was organized by Jenny Dickinson and the Child Life team.

Saying Goodbye to 2017
Thanks to Sherri Clarry for the Christmas 2017 Clarry Clan photo.