The Tri-Winners’ Retreat
The Interns went on their retreat on Sept 17-18. They were the first group to have the annual intern retreat at the Christ the King Retreat & Conference Center nestled away in a private and peaceful location right here in Syracuse. But this particular retreat was definitely not all about being quiet and contemplative. After a night out on the town, they returned to the retreat house for an evening of fun and other interesting forms of entertainment. They were joined the next morning by the program directors for some more fun and games including the infamous egg drop contest. Avidah gave the following insider’s report: “The intern class had a great time on our retreat. We went to Papa Gallo for Mexican food and margaritas (yum)! It was ladies night, so unfortunately Michael and Eric were left out again. The fun continued after dinner when we headed back to the house for some card games downstairs. As we all changed into our PJs for the night, a VERY creepy doll (Annabelle) was found in the bathroom by Kendall that haunted us for the entire night. Megan Campbell was the winner of the card games, although I would like to mention I did come in second. After game time ended, some of us went straight to bed while others (Mike, Robyn and Anuja) decided to explore the premises to make sure Annabelle didn’t have any other family or friends with her at the house. Friday morning we all woke up for a full day of activities. The final activity of the day was an egg drop. We were divided into 3 teams and all 3 teams successfully dropped the egg without breaking it, which signifies how strong our class has become in such a short amount of time. Dr. Kennedy presented us with a trophy and of course pictures were taken to brag to all of the other residents. The day ended with lunch and some really tasty cupcakes. Overall, I believe that our class is amazing, but I already knew that before the retreat.”

The new trophy, appropriately called “The Tri-Wizard Cup” (Harry Potter) will be shared by all three teams and kept on display in the new resident lounge.

Editor’s Note: As we go to print, no one has admitted to being Annabelle’s owner. She has not been spotted since the retreat. We will keep you informed of any future sightings.

BMA Book Award!
Congratulations to Dr. Mirza Beg who notified us of the following: “Dear colleagues, I just wanted to let you know that our textbook, Pediatric Gastroenterology: A Color Handbook, received a “Highly Commended” award from the British Medical Association. It is a prestigious award in the publishing industry that will increase book recognition and likely impact further distribution. The awards ceremony occurred in London this month. Neither I nor my co-editors were able to attend, but we were notified about our award this weekend. I think we all put together a most excellent textbook for which I have heard many positive comments. I would not be surprised if we are asked to write a second edition.”

Upstate NY Peds GI Conference
Robyn Borsuk
On a rainy Saturday in Skaneateles, NY, a group of over 20 GI attendings, fellows, residents and medical students gathered at the Sherwood Inn for the 9th Upstate NY Pediatric GI Conference. Attendees arrived from Syracuse, Albany, Rochester and Buffalo, and included our very own Dr. Beg, Dr. Wali, and Dr. Goldman. This year’s conference was organized by Dr. Brown from URMC, while next year’s will be a joint effort between Dr. Wali and former chief resident Dr. Mohanty (now a pediatric GI attending in Rochester). Topics discussed included providing nutritional support to pediatric GI patients post-discharge, Omegaven – a fatty acid emulsion used for TPN, fecal transplantation, and two case reports. The first report discussed a patient with primary sclerosing cholangitis. The second case and last talk of the day was given by Upstate MS4 Caroline Kirby, who presented on a patient with dysphagia. She did a fantastic job!
The annual conference was a great way to learn about interesting and new topics in pediatric Gastroenterology, and it is highly recommended to anyone interested in the field!

Where Are They Now? Marium Gill
We were delighted to receive an update from our former resident (Class of 2011) and chief resident Marium Gill. Marium had all kinds of wonderful news to share:

“I hope you are doing well. I read the Pediatric Crier fondly, in my free time. I completed my fellowship in Pediatric Pulmonology at UTSW, Dallas and have now moved to a small university town -Columbia, MO (very similar to Syracuse). It is an underserved area for peds pulmonary and due to my visa issues, we need to be in such a place for the next 3 yrs. Ovais is doing well…and….we have some news to share with you. We have a little baby boy 4.5 months old. His name is Daniyal Hasan (pronounced Daan-yal), born 4/22/2015. The move from Dallas to Columbia, MO was not easy with a 2-month old but we survived!

I am looking forward to the fall here, I have not seen fall for 3 years in Dallas. I am sure it won't be as beautiful as Syracuse, but it will be some kind of fall, at least. I miss everyone in Syracuse and have such fond memories. I would never be where I am, if it wasn't for you all in Syracuse. Hopefully, one day, when life settles down a bit, we will make a trip to Upstate New York. My regards to everyone!”

Congratulations, Marium!! We wish you and your family the best!

Making Beautiful Music Together
Our Music Therapist, Clare Arezina, and Shawn Wiemann got married on July 31st in Geneva NY. After the ceremony, the newlyweds took a quick trip to Portsmouth NH. Clare tells the Crier, “It was an absolutely gorgeous day--we couldn't have asked for better; my friend from college's string quartet played--it was lovely.” Congratulations to Clare and Shawn!

Our Child Life Fellow
The GCH welcomes our very first Child Life Fellow, Erin Ratajczak. Erin shares the following:

“Hello, my name is Erin Ratajczak I am the child life fellow here at Upstate. I completed my undergrad at Utica College and my intership at Strong Golisano Childrens Hospital in Rochester NY. During my free time I love spending time with family, being outside and crafting. I am extremely excited to be joining the SUNY Upstate team and look forward to getting to know all of you during my time here.

Erin K Ratajczak, Child Life fellow”

Pediatric Star of the Month
Lisa Blystone
The Pediatric Star of the Month is Andrea Clarry for the gracious and caring way that she diffused a difficult situation with an unhappy parent. Her simple act of kindness turned a tense situation around. Andrea is a true star and a model for us all! Andrea - please stop by UH 5803 to pick a prize from the Star prize cabinet!

In Loving Memory
The Annual Memory Tree Leafing Ceremony was held in front of the GCH on Sept 27th in memory of all the children who have died and were patients at Upstate University Hospital’s downtown and community campuses from June 2014 through May 2015. Staff, faculty, families and friends all came to remember these children who touched our lives with their love and courage by adding leaves with their names on the Memory Tree at the entrance of the GCH.

A Very Successful Radiothon 2015
Thanks all of the people in the department who helped out at Radiothon again this year. The Upstate Foundation’s 13th Annual Radiothon for Kids raised a record $171,900 to benefit the GCH. Also, special thanks to iHeart Media Stations for their continued support and dedication to the kids, the volunteers, and the patients and families who shared their stories on the air.

October Events:
10/13-15 - Oski Visiting Professor – Dr. Murray Passo
Dr. Passo is a Professor of Pediatrics, Chief, Division of Peds Rheumatology at the Medical University of South Carolina. He is also very involved in Quality Improvement. He will be presenting Grand Rounds, and will be giving several lectures to the residents as a part of his three days in Syracuse.

Welcome, Maya Ruth Marsh!
Congratulations to Sarah Marsh on the arrival of baby girl Maya Ruth Marsh born on 9/23 at 7 lb 11 oz 21. Mom and baby are both doing great!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
10/1 Sarah Marsh
10/11 Sue Sheffield
10/15 Alicia Pekarsky
10/16 Vicki Keeler
10/23 Frank Smith
10/29 Dalia Eid