

Resident Report

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUNY UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS | FALL 2011

For more information about the residency programs at Upstate Medical University please visit:

www.upstate.edu/gme

Six Upstate Residents Receive Gold Humanism Award

Six medical residents at Upstate Medical University have been awarded the 2011 Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

Third-year medical students selected the residents, based on their demonstration of "commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients and families, students and colleagues." (<http://www.humanism-in-medicine.org/>).

The residents, listed below, received a stipend from the Foundation, an award certificate, and became members of Upstate's chapter of the national Gold Humanism Honor Society.

- Dr. Robert Behm**, Surgery, Guthrie Clinic
- Dr. Nicholas Bennett**, Pediatrics, University Hospital
- Dr. Pratik Dalal**, Medicine, University Hospital
- Dr. Matt Mittiga**, Pediatrics, University Hospital
- Dr. Pujan Shrestha**, OB/GYN, University Hospital
- Dr. Asalim Thabet**, Pediatrics, University Hospital

Teamwork and Trust Helped Win This Race Against Time

Quick thinking and resourcefulness by **Dr. Sri Gopaluni**, a third-year fellow in the Department of Medicine, led to a successful outcome in a rare medical event earlier this year.

Dr. Gopaluni was on call and was paged at home to help a patient who had received an excess dose of chemotherapy.

"It was a race against time," she said. "It was a rare and unusual event."

When she arrived at Upstate University Hospital, Dr. Gopaluni conferred with attending physician Bernard Poiesz, MD. She also arranged for permission to use an Investigational New Drug and had the drug flown to Syracuse overnight.

Based on her research, Dr. Gopaluni knew she had to administer treatment within 24 hours. She had already told the patient to come to the hospital, and Teresa Gentile, MD, PhD, set aside a bed in the transplant unit.

"She was up all night and essentially worked non-stop crossing any number of seemingly insurmountable barriers," said Dr. Ajeet Gajra, MD, director of the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program at Upstate. "Kudos to Dr. Gopaluni for going truly above and beyond!"

Dr. Gopaluni sees the case as a classic example of what can go right with teamwork, trust and responsibility. "I appreciate the trust everyone had in me and the immense support I received," she said. "It couldn't have been possible without teamwork. I was happy to have Dr Poiesz back me up. I needed a person who believed in making things happen."

Everyone involved in the case understood the intensity of the moment and did everything she asked, Dr. Gopaluni said.

"It is truly an honor to work with this group of highly professional people," she said. "They gave me the time and support to come up with a concrete game plan resulting in a happy ending. It was a solid team effort and I can't thank this team enough for being by my side that night."



Dr. Srivalli Gopaluni



Featuring the Research of Upstate Postdocs, Residents and Fellows

Thursday, March 1, 2012

An excellent opportunity to become aware of research activities at Upstate and to enhance presentation skills for meetings and conferences.

The Research Day will include a keynote speech and platform presentations and a poster session presented by Upstate's postdocs, residents and fellows.

All postdocs, residents and fellows are encouraged to submit an abstract. The deadline for abstract submission is December 27, 2011 at noon. Participants will be able to present their research projects and findings.

Details on submitting abstracts to follow.

www.upstate.edu/postdoc/

Patients First, In Action



William Grant, EdD

The evolution of residents from their first day of training to their first day as a practicing physician is often magical and mysterious. Residents who could not place a Band-Aid on a small cut are suddenly suturing with sureness. Residents who trembled when conducting their first patient interview are within a few moments eliciting family secrets that explain previously undefined illnesses. In this issue of the Resident Report you will find a story that clearly reflects the end product of this process.

Dr. Srivalli Gopaluni found herself in a situation in which none of us would wish for and yet would all hope that if we were, she would be our physician. Confronted with a medical emergency for which there was no ready therapeutic response, she availed herself of every resource she could muster. In the process she orchestrated a multidisciplinary response that led to a successful outcome to a rare medical event.

Upstate provides training experiences to 502 medical residents and fellows in 43 accredited residency programs and fellowship programs. Dr. Gopaluni's story is reflective of the dedication and perseverance of these individuals. Upstate firmly believes in the philosophy of Patients First. It is our vision that we will be a clinical center of educational and research excellence by continuously evaluating and adopting innovative practices in technology and health care.

This case illustrates how our extensive resource systems including access to the most current literature, 24-hour availability of medical specialists, support from teaching and research faculty, and support from our outstanding residents and fellows can be brought to bear to solve the most difficult patient problems.

The Future of GME

Graduate Medical Education funding support is under considerable scrutiny from a variety of groups with wide ranging interests. Medicare pays out about \$3 billion per year in direct support for resident and teaching physician salaries. The Congressional Budget Office and the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform have called for reductions in support for GME at the same time that increasing numbers of uninsured Americans are seeking health care.

At the time of this writing, the implications of health care reforms are not yet formalized so it is unclear what the impact of those programs will be. In addition, pressure to reduce federal funding may succeed in eroding the financial support we now have. To suggest that the GME Office is concerned is an understatement. We have no definitive answers at this time.

We continue to follow the national and state discussions and to provide information to decision-makers with the intent of educating them on the implications of any reduction in numbers of residents and fellows in training. Your continued support on these issues is deeply appreciated.

William Grant, EdD
Associate Dean of Graduate
Medical Education



Upstate fellows present at Chicago conference

Upstate's Department of Medicine was well represented at the 2011 Digestive Disease Week conference in Chicago.

Divey Manocha, PGY-4 and former chief resident in Medicine, and **Shahid Ali**, a third-year fellow in Gastroenterology & Hepatology, were among the presenters at the May conference.



Dr. Manocha

Manocha earned Poster of Distinction honors for his study of the use of aspirin and/or NSAIDs and post-polypectomy bleeding. The study looked at 1,174 patients at the Syracuse VA Hospital over a 5-year period.

"Our study demonstrates that it safe to use aspirin and/or NSAIDs before and after colonoscopy/polypectomy procedures," Manocha said. "Post-polypectomy bleeding rates and outcomes were statistically comparable to those not taking these medications."

Manocha's presentation was among the top 10 percent recognized as one of the "posters of distinction" for its content and addition to existing medical knowledge.

Manocha said post-polypectomy bleeding is a common side effect of colonoscopies. The results of the study are especially relevant to patients who have stents or who have a history of heart attacks, he said.



Dr. Ali

Ali's abstract, "Characteristics of Upright and Recumbent Gastroesophageal Reflux in Patients on PPI Therapy," examined 59 studies of multi-channel intraluminal impedance and pH esophageal monitoring.

All patients were on acid suppressive therapy, and their upright reflux episodes were compared to recumbent episodes.

Ali's study showed that recumbent episodes lasted longer and were significantly more acidic, but did not reach higher in the esophagus. Recumbent episodes also had a lower baseline pH and showed less change in pH.

Since reflux that occurs at night last longer and has a higher risk of complications, the study indicates that the duration of reflux is probably more of a factor than its reach into the esophagus.

'Learning to Talk' program wins \$13,000 Challenge Grant

Dr. Stephen Knohl's "Learning to Talk" program for Upstate's Internal Medicine residents and fellows has been awarded a 2011-2012 Picker Institute/Gold Foundation GME Challenge Grant.

The \$13,000 award will fund a proposal that builds on the successful initiative by Knohl, MD, Internal Medicine program director. Dr. Knohl's proposal was one of nine projects chosen for funding out of 63 submitted proposals.

The Picker Institute's mission is to improve the lives of patients by considering the delivery of care from their perspective.

"Learning to Talk" consists of 12 simulation-based training experiences conducted in the Clinical Skills Center in the Setnor Academic Building. The curriculum focuses on communication-intensive scenarios.

The grant will be used to develop "discharge guides" to improve physician-patient communication through respect, clarity and education. Lisa Oliver, clerkship and fellowship program administrator for Internal Medicine, will serve as grant administrator. This enhancement will be piloted this year before implementation by outpatient clinics.



GME Awards 2010-2011

Above are some of the individuals recognized by the GME Office for their outstanding dedication to Graduate Medical Education:

TEAMWORK AWARDS:

Dr. Aravind Pothineni
Pulmonary/Critical Care

Dr. Anuradha Duleep
Neurophysiology

Dr. Landon Jones
Emergency Med

PROFESSIONALISM AWARD:

Dr. Juneyoung Yi
Neurosurgery

RESEARCH AWARD:
Dr. Charu Thakral
Pathology

TEACHING AWARD:
Dr. Asalim Thabet
Pediatrics

PROGRAM COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

Ms. Patty Vannelli
Pulmonary/Critical Care

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Dr. John Andrade
Pediatrics

Welcome New Residents

Anesthesiology

Shruthi Balakrishna
Drin Chow
Mohammed Hamdani
Jeremy Lowry
Peter Ma
Kathryn Rosenblatt
Parakshith Sumathi
Ned Urbiztondo

Anesthesiology-Pain

Linda Kawam
Jonathan Pratt

Dental

Juan Carlos Cabrera
Nicholas Dibenedetto
Robyn Giebler
Abbie Walker

Emergency Medicine

Randy Barros
Thomas Dinardo
Matthew Garman
Javad Hashmi
Daniel Jones
Samantha Jones
Anthony Klimek
Frederic Laporte
James Mangano
Joshua Nelson
Jason Swaby
Randeep Thiera

EM-Hyperbaric

Khan Shirani

Medicine-Cardiology

Prasad Cherian
Cristian Del Carpio Tenorio
Hana Hoyt

Medicine-Endocrinology

Ruban Dhaliwal

Medicine-GI

Nasser Hajar

Medicine-Hem/Onc

Bhuvanewari Ramkumar

Medicine

Aakash Aggarwal
Omar Baez
Emerald Banas
Puneet Bansal
Sicily Bradley
Puneet Braich
Omair Chaudhary
Kenneth Choi
Anthony Desa
Darren Farrington
Shrishti Ganguly
Sharon George
Sonja Gill
Tirisham Gyang
Colin Hardin
Joshua Harrison
Arundeeep Kahlon
Badal Kalamkar
Arman Khorasani-Zadeh
Sowmya Korapati
Bentley Makkar
Brian Manfredi
Sraavanthi Nandavaram

Amitpal Nat
Amritpal Nat
Sonia Nayyar
Shristi Neupane
Anna Orellana
Cesar Orellana
Subodh Pandey
Dana Papatheodorou
Kiran Pokhrel
Bhavya Rajanna
Meghan Rane
Amit Sharma
Sameer Sharma
Jhapat Thapa
Dona Varghese
Lisa Williams

Medicine-Inf Disease
Mohsena Amin

Medicine-Inf Disease

Mohsena Amin

Medicine-Nephrology

Antoine Azar
Ifeyinwa Nzeako

Medicine-Pulmonary

Vikas Jain
Ghanshyam Shastri

Medicine-Rheumatology

Ashwini Shadakshari

Neurology

Ahmad Ahmad
Ilya Bragin
Hyun Joo Cho
Mirret El-Hagrassy
Rajbeer Sangha
Ajay Sood
Kong Truong

Neurophysiology

Sonia Anand
Peter Struck

Neurosurgery

Alexa Bodman
David Ferrone

Ob/Gyn

Catherine Bailey
Luis Maturana
Helen Otteno
Laura Spector
Christie Walker

Ophthalmology

Michael Fikhman
Nima Rezaei Abbassi

Orthopedics

Brett Barrick
Kevin Mccoy
Murphy Steiner
Michael Yip

Orthopedics-Hand

Melissa Boyette
Steven Eddy

Orthopedics-Spine

Siddharth Badve

Otolaryngology

Tristan Klosterman
Ann Plum
Jennifer Villwock

Pathology-Cytopathology

Andra Kovalovsky

Pathology

Ivy John
Nellie Lakis
Ramona Untanu

Pediatrics

Marwan Al Aswad
Muaz Alwan
Lindsay Dudeck
Lina Hajar
Stephanie Hung
Aamer Imdad
Jenny Lin
Christopher Malabanan
Carla Overton
Archana Ramaswami
Nellie Sadaghiani
Nandita Singh
Brian Tran

Physical Med & Rehab

Alberto Maldonado
Kunal Parikh
Qi Li Ye

Psychiatry-Child

Lill Chamorro
Shuja Uddin

Psychiatry-Forensic

George Annas
Brandon Reynolds

Psychiatry

Narmin Aliji
Viral Goradia
Lioubov Leontieva
Eric Macmaster
Curtis Phillips
Kamaloshini Poovalingam
Nabil Siddiqi

Radiology

Krishna Das
Satpal Kaur
Amy Marcinkowski
Michael Mcconnell
Rahul Nayyar
Archana Siddalingappa

Radiology-Neuro

Sajeev Ezhapilli Chennan

Radiation-Oncology

Veeral Patel
Meghan Stott

Surgery

Mahmoud Chehab
Gerard De Castro
Pratik Desai
Forrestall Dorsett
Thomas Harrell
Mark Ilko
Michaela Kollisch-Singule
Nancy Ly
Alosh Madala
Marla Matal
Michael Oakley
Mohammed Sadat
Taimur Saleem
Sheryl Uyeda
Osama Zaytoun

UPSTATE

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Landon Jones, MD
at the Indy 500

Fellow on Fast Track At Indy 500 Elective

Landon Jones, MD, a pediatric emergency medicine fellow, spent the month of May on an elective at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. He didn't get to drive a race car, but he rode in the medical SUV that attended to drivers after crashes as drivers prepared for the Indianapolis 500.

Jones also attended racecourse safety meetings and lectures on high-speed collisions. "It's absolutely amazing how focused they are on safety," he said. "I always joke that the safest place on that track is in those cars going 220 mph." Jones, a racing fan, has worked on medical teams at Watkins Glen International speedway.

Jones is a former chief resident in Emergency Medicine, and is in the first year of his two-year pediatric fellowship. "I love kids," he said. "I'm a 5-year-old at heart."



Resident Appreciation Day

**SAVE THE DATE:
Wed., Oct. 26
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Please stop by the small cafeteria in University Hospital for breakfast in the morning and cake in the afternoon. There will be a small token of appreciation given to all residents who stop by and see members of the GME Office!