

Department of Medicine

The First 70 Days

19 April 2016

It has been a few days over 2 months since I assumed the chairmanship of medicine, albeit temporary. It is a privilege to lead the largest department in the medical school, with the most active clinical profile, teaching programs, and research in the institution. I am also grateful to work with the brightest people in medicine, many of whom I've known for years and count on for advice and guidance. I believe my single greatest asset is my ability to listen, and that will be the foundation of how I hope to work with each of you. I suspect we will not agree on all things, but you should never feel I have not understood your point of view while making a decision. Dr. Iannuzzi has successfully positioned our department, after years of effort, on a financially stable platform. Clinical activity will obviously be the basis for our fiscal viability. My intention is to continue this course, but gently turn toward an increasingly academic culture. That means an increased emphasis on teaching, novel educational strategies, and our trainees in general. It also means support and recognition of research activities, which raise the bar for academic discourse across the entire institution.

To the Staff: You are the scaffold that holds our departments together. It is immensely difficult to have a sense of common identity across various specialties and sites, but we do serve common goals. You should feel proud of a well functioning department that is financially sound and structurally stable, much of which is related to your strong work. As a company, the Department of Medicine operates on a very fine margin, but we do good work for a large population of people whom others don't serve. You should feel proud of the role you play in this organization. I will recognize your efforts whenever I can.

To the Housestaff: I want to assure you that you have some of the most talented teachers in the institution. I feel strongly that trainees who graduate from this institution are among the best anywhere. I would like to encourage you to take this time in your life as an opportunity to push your academic boundaries. You can write reviews and opinions, you can create posters and case reports, you can get involved in research if you are willing to sacrifice the time and energy. All of these activities will enrich your lives as physicians and create memories you won't forget. The academic missions of teaching and research are fountains of energy that will elevate your work satisfaction and patient care. Enjoy the process and appreciate the gift that you have and the awesomeness of having patients entrust their very beings in your hands!

To the Faculty: I am deeply aware that many of you have thought a great deal about problems and challenges that we face. You may have opinions about what to do right now or even feel there are actions that we should have taken long ago. I will hear this, I will ask you questions, I will advocate for you. But my job is to look at the big picture and how things fit together. I will continually encourage and support your efforts at teaching and research. It is what enriches our lives and allows trainees to thrive. My first task is to identify problems, set goals, and organize support. I depend on you to assume ownership of some of these challenges. I will be counting on you for advice and support, and I hope you will do likewise with me.

We have many ongoing projects in the Department – in fact something is happening in every division right at this moment! Globally, I believe we need to expend our resources on developing primary care, diabetes care, and the theme of geriatrics across the institution. These are the foundations of health care in our society. I hope you hear me talk about ambulatory care enough that you might forget I am a transplant nephrologist!

Best wishes and plenty of sun and Spring,
Sriram S. Narsipur



Chief Residents - (left to right) Drs. Rushikesh Shah, Harvir Gambhir, and Arpan Patel—cut a cake with Dr. Narsipur on Doctor's Day

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Department of Medicine

KUDOS



ADULT MEDICINE

“The doctor who took care of me had great bedside manner.” **Sharlene Nemitz, NP** has always provided the best of care to me!” “Good experience.” “Good staff.” “Very good provider.” “Very good experience.” **Dr. Sakshi Dutta** impressed me.” “Staff was efficient in receiving patients.” “The problem that occurred was handled very professionally and my concerns were put at ease.” “The person I saw was both concerned and knowledgeable.” “The staff showed courteous and professionalism at all times.” **Sharlene Nemitz, NP** – love her!” “The nurses are very nice to me.” “I really like the care I’ve received here. Very caring doctors and nurses.” “They really care about my health. I really appreciate their care very much.” “The nurse was very friendly, respectful, and professional.” **Dr. Ramsay Farah** took his time to explain everything – very patient with me.”

JOSLIN CENTER FOR DIABETES

“Everyone was very helpful and pleasant.” “They have genuine concern for the patients.” **Dr. Concilla** takes care of me when I visit. I always enjoy my visits. Of course, I always get great care and the visits are always pleasant.” **Dr. Mols** explains, asks questions, is friendly, and seems to know what she is doing – better than most doctors.” **Dr. Weinstock** always provides excellent care and treats you as if you are the only patient – no rush, listens, and is the best of the best!” **Dr. Mols** is very caring.” “New nurse practitioner was excellent – very good appointment.” “I really like **Dr. Mols**.” **Dr. Stred** is compassionate and supportive.” “I love **Dr. Dhaliwal!**” **Dr. Izquierdo** is fantastic. He made my diagnosis easier to handle.” “I have found the entire staff at Joslin to be excellent and have recommended you to friends.” “I love **Dr. Kelly**.” **Dr. Mols** is very good.” **Dr. Kelly** is always respectful and very thorough. The entire staff is courteous, caring, and a concerned group.” **Dr. Mols** is very good at what she does.” **Dr. Kelly** is very friendly and makes you feel at ease. She is very knowledgeable and works with you. I would not want another doctor.” “The nurses do a great job!”

“I would NOT go anywhere else.”

MEDICINE SUBSPECIALITIES

“I have always received excellent service.” “Always very helpful.” **Dr. Perl** and **Dr. Chaparala** are two very special and outstanding people.” “It was a good experience.” “The nurse who did my intake was very personable.” “The office nurse was very kind and respectful.” **Dr. Perl** always takes time to answer all of my questions.” **Dr. Chaparala** – I was very sick last June and was able to contact her on the weekend.” “I am very grateful to **Dr. Perl** and his staff. I have been going there for 2 years and have always been treated with compassion and respect.” “Always pleasant.” “They are very good to me. I drive 1 ½ hours to get to my appointments.” “Everything went smoothly.” **Dr. Neupane** is excellent at explaining things, listening, and calls you personally if you have any concerns.” **Dr. Chakravarty** was friendly, professional, and balanced efficiency well with taking time to really listen to me. I give him very high marks.” **Dr. Stephen Knohl** is very understanding.” “I love all my healthcare providers. They all do an excellent job for me. They go out of their way to help me. I really appreciate it. Thank you.” “Friendly and courteous staff.” “I think the world of my rheumatologist. He is very caring and truly concerned when there is a problem. I would most definitely recommend **Dr. Neupane** to anyone. He is the best!” “Comfortable and enjoyable.” **Dr. Neupane** was thorough and gave me a lot of options to consider.”

ROC

“Facility is VERY professional.” “Every staff person I’ve come in contact with has been caring, considerate, knowledgeable and quick to respond to any needs I have – they listen and follow through.” “I am overwhelmed by the dedication, knowledge, and determination to give me the very best chance to beat this.” “Everything was very good.” “So glad I was referred here. My experience has been great. Everyone I’ve met has been professional and accommodating.” “I recommend Upstate Cancer Center to everyone. I would NOT go anywhere else.” “The waiting time between registration and being seen is very short.” “The facility is totally amazing in every aspect.” “The staff in both the doctor’s office and chemo area makes sure all our questions and concerns are answered and that we understand what to expect.” “I have told many friends and family that Upstate is the best including the facility and staff. I am thankful for all the care and genuine concern I have been receiving.” “Overall care at Cancer Center has been exemplary. Couldn’t have asked for a better team of NP, RN’s, and Doctors.” “All doctors and staff are always very helpful and kind.” “The staff takes good care of me.” “I’m very happy with my treatment at Upstate.”

GREAT JOB!

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KUDOS Cont.'d

UNIVERSITY CARDIOLOGY

“Great nurses and assistants.” “Everyone was great.” “All of the staff members were very nice and friendly.” “Very good care by all.” “All of the staff was very nice and helpful during my stay. Very good people.” “The receptionists make me feel welcome. My doctor always listens well and answers my questions.” “Always very good.” “My doctor is very thorough and makes me feel very comfortable and confident” “Excellent professional staff.” “As an overall practice I am very pleased to go here.” “Very professional and always follow through, as promised.” “The care I have received has been great.” “Provider exceeded my expectations.” “The office is very clean and efficient – the staff is attentive.” “I feel lucky to have the doctor that I have.” “**Dr. Carhart** restored my faith and truly showed me he cared. He was very respectful – I am grateful to have found him.” “**Dr. Carhart** is very honest and easy to talk to. He’s a good man – one of the best.”



UNIVERSITY GERIATRICIANS

“Very pleased with the facility.” “**Dr. Berg** is compassionate, explained things, listened, and took her time with us.” “Extremely good. Best experience I’ve ever had in a doctor’s office.” “They seemed really concerned and interested.” “**Dr. Berg** is the kindest, most empathetic, and informative doctor we have seen in a while.” “**Dr. Berg** treated me like a personal friend. I feel very lucky to have my health care in their hands.” “No complaints! Wish all medical experiences were this pleasant.” “Very friendly front desk staff; I’m always greeted with a smile!” “**Dr. Bishop** is a very caring and knowledgeable individual. The receptionists in her office are extremely friendly and pleasant.”

RESIDENT AWARDS



BEYOND THE DOCTORATE DAY AWARD

Congratulations to one of our house staff members, Dr. Jessica Patel! Dr. Patel received an award on her poster presentation from the College of Medicine. Her poster presentation was “organized clearly, showed originality, had a well-formulated hypothesis, appropriate methodology and [her] conclusions were well-supported.”

Dr. Patel has been invited to attend the Resident Award Ceremony which will be held at the Sheraton University Hotel and Conference Center on May 23rd at noon.

“Provider exceeded my expectations.”



RESIDENT AWARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM

Congratulations to Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellow, Dr. Sravanthi Nandavaram! “[Her] nominations were written by several of the nursing staff from the MICU including: Melissa Morris, Amy Lawless, Sarah Persons, Caitlin Tomko, Elizabeth Staib Anne Lenox, Jen Montross and Ryan Scanlan. The nursing staff cited how [she] routinely [goes] above and beyond the call of duty for patients and their families, [her] pleasant personality, great teaching skills to both nurses and residents and [her] calm, professional style. Additionally, [she has] great communication skills and [is] calm in emergent situations. One of the nicest comments stated, “...it goes without saying that any of us working in the MICU would say that Sravanthi is the absolute best doctor we have ever worked with and would allow her to care for any of our loved ones without thinking twice or being worried that they would not receive the care we expect for them.”

Dr. Nandavaram has been invited to the Resident Award ceremony to be held on Monday, May 23, 2016 from 12 PM to 1 PM in the Regency Ballroom of the Sheraton University Hotel.



Department of Medicine



COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION AND AWARDS

The class of 2016 has selected the **Internal Medicine** department for the **Syracuse Medical Alumni Clinical Department Teaching Award**. The department has won the Clinical Teaching Award every year, except for two, since 2006. (2006-2011, 2014-2016)

The class of 2016 has also selected **Dr. Amit Dhamoon** for the **Syracuse Medical Alumni Association Clinical Faculty Teaching Award**. Dr. Dhamoon joined our Department in 2011 and has consecutively won this award since 2013!

These awards will be presented on stage at the COM commencement on May 22nd at 3:00 PM in the Crouse Hinds Theater, John H. Mulroy Civic Center.

Alpha Omega Alpha Gamma Chapter Excellence in Teaching Award

Each year, AΩA students select two residents to receive their Excellence in Teaching Award. This year the fourth year AΩA students have honored Dr. Rogin Subedi's contributions to their education and developing careers with one of these awards! Dr. Subedi has been invited to attend the annual induction dinner on Friday, May 20th.



Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society

Dr. Gaurang Vaidya has been elected to the Upstate Medical University Gamma Chapter of the national Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society! Each year the AΩA students may elect a limited number of faculty members, alumni, and teaching residents in recognition of their achievement, scholarship, and professionalism. His election is a tribute from the fourth year AΩA students to his influence on their education and developing careers. Dr. Vaidya has been invited to attend the AΩA annual induction dinner on Friday, May



CELEBRATION OF THE FACULTY

Celebration of the faculty was held on the evening of March 16th. The following doctors in the Medicine Department were recognized at the reception:

Arif, Muhammad, *New*

Bansal, Nidhi, *New*

Bisen, Nabamita, *New*

Bonilla, Eduardo, *New*

Chaudhuri, Debanik, *New*

Fazili, Tasaduq, *Promotion to Associate Professor*

Javaid, Waleed, *Promotion to Associate Professor*

Manocha, Divey, *New*

Moses, Arnold, *Emeritus*

Naqvi, Muhammad, *New*

Nat, Amitpal, *New*

Sexton, James, *Promotion to Associate Professor*

Shepherd, Zachary, *New*

Singh, Avneet, *New*

Sivapiragasam, Abirami, *New*

Swarnkar, Suman, *New, Gold Standard Award*

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CELEBRATION OF THE FACULTY Cont.'d



Drs. Ruth Weinstock and Arnold Moses



“Allow your passion to become your purpose, and it will one day become your profession.”



Dr. Suman Swarnkar, 2016 Gold Standard Award Recipient (center) with husband, Dr. Amar Swarnkar who was recently promoted to Professor in Radiology, and their son, Rohit PGY1 Gen Med intern.



Department of Medicine

\$1M Grant by the NY State Department of Health

Dr. Elizabeth Asiago Reddy of Infectious Disease has recently been awarded a \$1M grant by the NY State Department of Health to promote delivery of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Dr. Reddy has described her project: "The overall goal fits in with the Plan to End the Epidemic in NYS by 2020 (a lofty one for sure). We are already offering PrEP at our clinic, but this will allow for a PrEP care manager to assist in insurance approvals, care navigation, etc. It will also allow for a data manager which promotes greater understanding of who we are accessing with PrEP, how adherent they are, etc. We currently have an outreach coordinator, NYS funded, who is outstanding, so she will continue. So I think it will be a nice complement to what we have now."



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY 2016

The following list contains the names of employees in the Department of Medicine who have reached their five year milestone for service recognition. Congratulations to all those being honored! Employee Recognition Day will be held Thursday, June 9th, 2016 at the OnCenter.

Five Years:

Rebecca Black - Hematology/Oncology
 Lisa Bowers - Hematology/Oncology
 Tania Caiello - Hematology/Oncology
 Jacquelyn Connolly - Hematology/Oncology
 Carissa Jackson - Hematology/Oncology
 Cecelia Jones - Hematology/Oncology
 Christy Kingsley - Hematology/Oncology
 Ellen Scott - Hematology/Oncology
 Nicole Tompkins - Hematology/Oncology
 Sherrie Bishop - Joslin Diabetes Center
 Kathryn Lambert - Joslin Diabetes Center
 Melissa McDougal - Joslin Diabetes Center
 Dr. Diana Gilligan - Hematology/Oncology
 Dr. Sonal Kamalia - General Internal Medicine
 Richard Kopp - Endocrinology
 Dr. Jivan Lamichhane - General Internal Medicine
 Dr. Dinesh Subedi - General Internal Medicine
 Dr. Tamas Szombathy - Cardiology
 Cathleen McCormick - Ambulatory Medicine
 Sharon Staub - Ambulatory Medicine
 Terry Yaple - Ambulatory Medicine
 James Glowacki - Cardiac Cath Lab
 James Hartwell - Cardiac Cath Lab
 Jacklyn Hillje - University Cardiology
 Kimberly Walsh - University Cardiology

Ten Years:

Ashley Giacobbi - Hematology/Oncology
 Carolyn Snyder - Hematology/Oncology
 Danielle Bartorillo - Internal Medicine/Harrison
 SueAnn Vanname - Gastroenterology
 Frances Swiecki - Cardiology
 Dr. Birendra Sah - Pulmonary/Critical Care

Mia Ruiz-Salvador - Medicine Administration
 Dr. Sekou Rawlins - Gastroenterology
 Shioban Reilly - Gastroenterology
 Deborah Pelkey - Hematology/Oncology
 Barbara Krause - Gastroenterology
 Tami Harpster - Hematology/Oncology
 Renee Gibson - Hematology/Oncology
 Lyubov Morgun - Ambulatory Medicine
 Tracy Baty - EP Lab
 Deanna Walborn - EP Lab
 Margaret Welch - EP Lab
 James DiGristina - University Cardiology

Fifteen Years:

Deborah Cloonan - Hematology/Oncology
 Wendy Diehl - Hematology/Oncology
 Dr. Ramsay Farah - Dermatology
 Dr. Suman Swarnkar - General Internal Medicine
 Steven Thomas - Hematology/Oncology
 Dr. Daniel Villarreal - Cardiology
 Jennifer Lagoy - EP lab

Twenty Years:

Christine Heagle-Bahn - Geriatrics Medicine
 Tina Evans - Hematology/Oncology
 Juliane Grimsley - Hematology/Oncology
 J. Martha Dixon - Joslin Diabetes Center
 Dr. Roberto Izquierdo - Joslin Diabetes Center
 Dr. Timothy Creamer - General Internal Medicine
 Zhiwei Lai - Rheumatology
 Dr. Sriram Narsipur - Nephrology
 Dr. Dana Savici - Pulmonary/Critical Care
 Carol Robinson - Ambulatory Medicine
 Mary Waters - University Cardiology



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EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY Cont.'d

Twenty Five Years:

Kay Frank - Geriatrics Medicine
 Suzan Bzdick - Endocrinology
 Lisa Carroll - Cardiology
 Dipak Dube - Hematology/Oncology
 Dr. Harold Husovsky - General Internal Medicine
 Martha Morabito - Hematology/Oncology

Thirty Years:

Dr. Lynn Cleary - Academic Affairs/General Internal Medicine
 Dr. David Duggan - Dean's Office, College of Medicine
 Dr. Jerrie Gavalchin - Hematology/Oncology
 Linda Gruninger - Ambulatory Medicine

Thirty Five Years:

Lorraine Dardani - Ambulatory Medicine



Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) Award

The following presentation — submitted to Beyond the Doctorate Day — won first place at MSSNY in Tarrytown, NY on April 15th.

Gaurang Nandkishor Vaidya, Abhishek Jaiswal, Bhaskara Madhira. 'GET QT': A comprehensive criteria to differentiate Takotsubo cardiomyopathy from STEMI



RESIDENT ABSTRACTS

AACE:

Poornima Ramadas, Amitha Padmanabhuni, Prathik Krishnan, Jennifer Kelly. Dexamethasone suppression test unreliable in a gastric bypass patient? – A diagnostic dilemma, presented at AACE, May 25-29, 2016.

NATIONAL ACP:

Ryan Dean, Aashrai Gudlavalleti, Amit Dhamoon. An interesting case of a large cell paranasal neuroendocrine tumor, presented at National ACP, Washington, DC, May 5-7, 2016.

ATS:

Abhishek Jaiswal, Jill Yeager, Santiago Miro, Bhaskara R. Madhira. Dyspnea: An unusual presentation of hiatal hernia, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Anshu Giri, Puneet Bansal, Michael Kosters, Patrick Kohlitz. An embolic quandary, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Karan Gupta, Phillip Aleksiejuk, Aditya Kalakonda, Patrick Kohlitz. To steroid, or not to steroid: A case study reviewing controversial corticosteroid treatment in levamisole-induced leukocytoclastic vasculitis, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Lauren Krowl, Arunpreet Kahlon, Housam Hegazy. Biopsy negative, AFB culture negative, pulmonary tuberculosis, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Poornima Ramadas, Prathik Krishnan, Rumon Chakravarty, Anupa Nadkarni. Dangers of flying high and diving low! An unusual case of dyspnea, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

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RESIDENT ABSTRACTS Cont.'d

Prathik Krishnan, Sravanthi Nandavaram, Poornima Ramadas, Dana Savici. Calcium: Great for bones, not for lungs, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Ravi Doobay, Amish Shah, Umair Masood, Arunpreet Kahlon, Dana Savici. Pneumonitis, serositis, or endocarditis?, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Ryan Asterita, Kunal Chawla, Maya Ignaszewski, Viveksandeep T. Chandrasekar, Omair Chaudhary, Manju Paul. HHV-6: Unusual cause of psychosis in a healthy woman, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Semaan Kobrossi, James Ferretti, Patrick Kohlitz. Rapidly recurring large pleural effusion in the setting of chronic pancreatitis: A documented pancreaticopleural fistula, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 16, 2016.

Sonny Nijjar, Pallavi Kopparchy, Umair Masood, Arunpreet Kahlon, Amit Dhamoon. A case of non-ST elevation myocardial infarction due to idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Stamatis Baronos, Obiajulu Anozie, Serena Grewal, Milan Patel, Anil Ghimire. A Case of severe Legionnaire's disease with hilar lymph node necrosis in an immunocompetent host, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Umair Masood, Wajihuddin Syed, Pallavi Kopparchy, Anuj Sharma, Housam Hegazy. Alveolar hemorrhage in Henoch Schonlein Purpura: An uncommon presentation, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

Zabeer Bhatti, James Sexton. Quadriplegic man becomes ventilator dependent, presented at ATS, San Francisco, CA, May 13-18, 2016.

MSSNY:

Jaswinder Virk, Dalvir Gill, Sakshi Dutta, Zabeer Bhatti, David Landsberg. An unusual case of *Staphylococcus aureus* pneumonia with multiple lung nodules, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

Konrad Dziemski, Simrit Walia, Jaswinder Virk, Rahul Chandak, Kunal Chawla, Vincent Frechette. Myasthenia gravis: A missed diagnosis or a diagnosis amiss?, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

Lauren Krowl, Rajeev Yalamanchilli. Reporting the clinical and diagnostic course of cancer of unknown primary, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

Obiajulu Anozie, Kegan Jessamy, Steve Antoine, Fidelis Ojevwe, Ioana Amzuta. Recurrent nasopharyngeal carcinoma presenting as carotid artery pseudoaneurysm, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 5, 2016.

Poornima Ramadas, Nidhi Bansal, Prathik Krishnan, Divey Manocha. Hypercalcemia as the initial manifestation of Marjolin's ulcer, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

Prathik Krishnan, Poornima Ramadas, Patrick Kohlitz. A rare case of Euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

Priyanka Srivastav, Anuj Sharma, Ioana Amzuta. Iatrogenic injury to the left ventricle during insertion of a chest tube: Rarest of rare complication, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

Serena Grewal, Mariam Alexander, Milan Patel, Manju Paul. Hyperviscosity syndrome: A rare presentation leading to the diagnosis of an already rare disease, IgM multiple myeloma, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.



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RESIDENT ABSTRACTS Cont.'d

Sonal Pruthi, Amit Sharma, Ambika Eranki. Co-infection of *Mycobacterium avium* complex and *Mycobacterium abscessus* – non-tuberculosis mycobacteria in an immunocompetent host in a non-endemic region of United States, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

Stamatis Baronos, Dhruv Lowe, Steve Butala, Rogin Subedi, Russell Acevedo. Can IVIG treat Eastern equine encephalitis?, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

Zabeer Bhatti, Jessica Norsworthy, Dalvir Gill, Jaswinder Virk, Devamohan Sivalingam. Sitagliptin-associated pancreatic cancer, presented at MSSNY, Tarrytown, NY, April 15, 2016.

SGIM:

Abhishek K. Jaiswal, Gaganjot Singh, Ruby Appiah. A case of Lathénie de Ferjol syndrome with factitious hypoglycemia: A diagnostic puzzle, presented at SGIM, Long Island, NY, April 1, 2016.

Prathik Krishnan, Poornima Ramadas, Rumon Chakravarty, Brendra Sah. A rare and fatal case of viral encephalitis in an immunocompetent host, presented at SGIM Mid Atlantic, Long Island, April 1, 2016

SGIM ANNUAL:

Alka Lamsal-Ghimire, Amitpal Nat. Uremic lung: Is it simple pulmonary edema or pneumonitis, presented at SGIM Annual, Hollywood, FL, May 11-14, 2016.

Poornima Ramadas, Christy Ann Gilman, Prathik Krishnan, Viveksandeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar, Jivan Lamichhane. It's more than just a necrotizing pneumonia!, presented at SGIM Annual, Hollywood, FL, May-11-14, 2016

SHM:

Aswini Kumar, Viveksandeep Chandrasekar Thoguluva, Aswanth Reddy, Anil Ghimire. Contained rupture of proximal descending thoracic aorta masquerading as necrotizing pneumonia, presented at SHM, San Diego, CA, May 21-24, 2016

Dalvir Gill, Jaswinder Pal Singh Virk, Sakshi Dutta, Zabeer Bhatti, Alisa Vitkus, Fatme Allam. Screening for celiac disease in patients with sarcoidosis?, presented at SHM, San Diego, CA, May 21-24, 2016.

Sakshi Dutta, Amitpal Nat, Sonal Pruthi, Dalvir Gill, Jaswinder Virk. Cannabis withdrawal induced hypertensive urgency, presented at SHM, San Diego, CA, May 21-24, 2016.

Sakshi Dutta, Amitpal Nat, Umair Masood, Dalvir Gill. Unusual presentation and spinal cord infarction in a 21 year old male, presented at SHM, San Diego, CA, May 21-24, 2016.

Siddharth Shah, Jalaluddin Umar, Sonal Pruthi, Brian Changlai. A case review of an unusual presentation of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in HIV positive patient, presented at SHM, San Francisco, CA, May 21-24, 2016.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING:

Tristan Petrie, David Lehmann. Lamotrigine vs lymphoma: A case of hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, presented at Southern Regional Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 18-20, 2016



Department of Medicine

ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN REFUGEE HEALTH CONFERENCE



[“The North American Refugee Health Conference is recognized as the preeminent conference destination for professionals working with refugee populations.”](#) This year’s conference will be held in Niagara Falls, NY from June 12-14. The conference will highlight the best practices in the field and discuss current refugee health issues. This year Drs. Pete Cronkright and Andrea Shaw, along with medical students and others, have had their oral presentations and posters accepted for this year’s conference.

Oral Presentations:

“Transforming Guidelines into Practice, Managing Strongyloidiasis in Refugees from Loa Loa Endemic Areas” Shaw A., Cronkright P.

“The Refugee Health Screener: Broadening the lens of Primary Care” Cronkright P., Remillard T., Assam L., Lupone C., Truong T., Li N.

“Examination Of Functional Health Literacy In Adult Refugees Within 90 Days Of Resettlement” Custer A., Iles K., Ventre S., Lupone C., Jessamy K, Cronkright P.

“Beyond Screening For Emotional Distress: A Workshop About Successes And Challenges Of Screening And Care Provision Across Disparate Health Care Settings” Hollifield M., Conway K., Johnson-Agbakwu C., Cronkright P., Shaw D.

Posters:

“Oculocutaneous Albinism: Medical Needs with Cultural Context.” Mohamed A., Thannickal A, Shaw A.

“A woman from Democratic Republic of Congo presenting with bilateral non-pitting edema and inguinal lymphadenopathy: a case study.” Kathleen Iles, MS-II Akosuah Agyei, MS-II Peter Cronkright, MD

“Prevalence Of Anemia Among Resettled Refugees From Somalia, Iraq, And Bhutan Upon Arrival To The United States From 2010-2014” Edmonds P., Faughnan G., Agyei A., Cronkright P.

“Splenomegaly in DRC Refugees via Uganda: Clinicians be informed” Cronkright P., Assam L., Remillard T.

“Third Time Is A Charm: The Story Of Amenorrhea In A Somali Refugee” Ayan Mohamed, Andrea V. Shaw

Networking Sessions: Drs. Cronkright and Shaw have been asked to participate in a networking session regarding clinical research.



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Upstate Named a National Pancreas Foundation Center

As seen on [Upstate Online](#): “Upstate Medical University has been named a National Pancreas Foundation (NPF) Center for Care and Treatment of Pancreas Disease.

With this designation, Upstate becomes one of only 37 medical institutions nationwide and the only one in New York outside of New York City to be recognized by the NPF.

The designation means that Upstate has all the services, health care professionals and programs necessary to provide multidisciplinary treatment of the pancreas, with the ability to treat the “whole patient,” focusing on ensuring the best treatment outcomes for an improved quality of life.

Matthew Alsante, executive director of National Pancreas Foundation, indicated that for people coping with pancreatitis or other pancreatic disorders today, there are inconsistencies in the level of care they receive. The NPF Centers designation will help facilitate the development of high quality, multidisciplinary care approaches for the field. Designated centers will also seek to advance research and lead the way for heightened awareness and understanding of pancreatitis and related conditions among community physicians, allied health professionals, patients, families and the general public.

“NPF Centers are of great benefit to the whole community,” said NPF Center Task Force member Timothy Gardner, MD. “Having the NPF Center designation will help distinguish institutions whose focus is on patient-centered care either for the treatment of their disease or to get an expert second opinion.”

“It’s a seal of approval for how we care for patients with pancreatitis,” said Upstate University Hospital interventional gastroenterologist Nuri Ozden, MD, and the medical director of the National Pancreas Foundation, New York State Chapter, who was instrumental in winning the designation for Upstate. “We have all the experts here: dietitians, endocrinologists, epidemiologists, gastroenterologists, oncologists, (interventional) radiologists, pain management specialists, and surgeons, that work together as one multi-disciplinary team to develop the best treatment plans for our patients with chronic pancreatitis.”

Rainer W.G. Gruessner, MD, Upstate’s transplant chief and professor of surgery, said the designation also “highlights the breath of treatment options at Upstate Medical University in dealing with the many complications of chronic pancreatitis, ranging from diabetes to cancer. Upstate will soon offer islet autotransplantation for patients undergoing total pancreatectomy for the treatment of chronic pancreatitis, a treatment option offered only at a handful of medical centers in the nation.

Pancreas and islet transplant programs for the treatment of patients with endocrine pancreas failure and for those suffering from diabetes mellitus, are also currently being developed at Upstate.” Upstate already plays a major role in the region in patient and physician education for all kinds of diseases of the pancreas and serves as a resource to patient support groups.

“This puts Upstate on the map with regard to our expertise in the treatment of this and other pancreatic diseases,” Gruessner said, noting that Upstate could become a medical destination center for the treatment of pancreatic disorders for patients throughout the Northeast.

Jane Cross, the chair of the CNY Chapter of the NPF, who has battled pancreatic disease for 15 years, says the designation at Upstate will be helpful to many individuals like her. “It has been difficult to find treatment here in the Northeast that looks at the health of the entire patient, not simply the pancreatic disease,” she said. “Those of us living with this disease know the disease brings to bear many health concerns. Upstate’s designation as an NPF Center gives patients the assurance that care here meets a high standard.”

To be designated as a NPF Center, Upstate went through an extensive auditing process to assess how well it met criteria that were developed by a task force made up of invited subject matter experts and patient advocates. The criteria require that patients have access to a host of medical experts and clinical trials, various imaging technology and electronic medical records, to name a few.

Pancreatic diseases range from acute pancreatitis to pancreatic cancer.

The pancreas sits behind the stomach and is a vital part of the digestive system. It secretes enzymes to help the digestion of food and specializing in controlling blood sugar levels. Common disorders of the pancreas include:

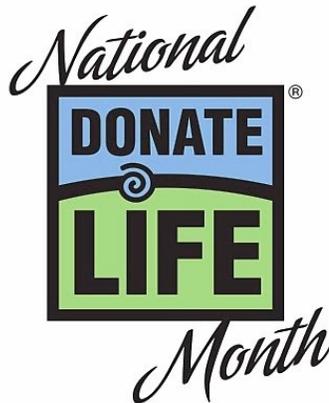
- Acute pancreatitis is a sudden attack causing inflammation of the pancreas and severe abdominal pain that may last several days. Most patients with this disorder recover completely.
- Chronic pancreatitis is an irreversible disorder associated with the destruction of the pancreas that can cause abdominal pain and diarrhea. In latter stages patients can develop malnutrition, weight loss and diabetes mellitus.
- Hereditary pancreatitis is a progressive disease with a high risk of permanent problems.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in men and fifth in women. It accounts for more than 37,000 new cases each year.

Diabetes mellitus is the most common metabolic disease caused by the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas, affecting over 30 million Americans, and remains the leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, major amputations and cardiovascular complications such as heart attacks and strokes.



Department of Medicine



Upstate Named a National Pancreas Foundation Center Cont.'d



Rainer W.G. Gruessner, MD, professor and chief of transplant and interventional gastroenterologist, Nuri Ozden, MD. Dr. Ozden serves as medical director of the local chapter of the National Pancreas Foundation (NPF).

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Schwede F, **Chepurny OG**, Kaufholz M, Bertinetti D, **Leech CA**, Cabrera O, Zhu Y, Mei F, Cheng X, Manning Fox JE, MacDonald PE, Genieser H-G, Herberg FW, **Holz GG**. Rp-cAMPS prodrugs reveal the cAMP dependence of first-phase glucosestimulated insulin secretion. *Molecular Endo* 2015; 29: 988-1005. PMID 26061564

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Masters GA, Temin S, Azzoli CG, Giaccone G, Baker S Jr, Brahmer JR, Ellis PM, **Gajra A**, et al. Systemic therapy for Stage IV non-small cell lung cancer: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Update. *J Clin Oncol* 2015 Oct 20;33(30):3488-3515. PMID: 26324367

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Vaidya G, Sarwar M, Sun ZX, Wei TM, **Liu K**. A sickle cell disease patient with severe tricuspid regurgitation and early developed pulmonary hypertension. *Intern Med* 2015;54(19):2459-2462. PMID: 26424303

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GRANTS AWARDED *As seen in Faculty Commons

Ruban Dhaliwal, MD, MPH, Medicine, PI Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. An Observational, Longitudinal, Prospective, Long-Term Registry of Patients with Hypophosphatasia 10/26/2015-10/25/2016

Teresa C. Gentile, MD, PhD, Medicine, PI Astellas Pharma Global Development, Inc. A Phase 3 Open-Label, Multicenter, Randomized Study of ASP2215 versus Salvage Chemotherapy in Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) with FLT3 Mutation 10/20/2015-10/19/2016

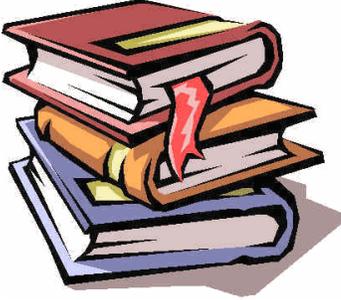
Andras Perl, MD, PhD, Medicine, PI Ablynx NV A Phase II Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Doserange Finding Study to Evaluate Safety and Efficacy of ALX-0061 Administered Subcutaneously in Subjects with Moderate to Severe Active Systemic Lupus Erythematosus 11/12/2015-11/11/2016

Bernard J. Poiesz, MD Medicine, PI SOTIO LLC A Randomized, Double Blind, Multicenter, Parallel-group, Phase III Study to Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of DCV AC/PCa vs. Placebo in Men with Metastatic Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer Eligible for 1st Line Chemotherapy 10/16/2015-10/15/2016

Anna M. Stewart, PhD, MPA, Medicine, PI Stanford University Effects of Temperature on Vector-borne Disease Transmission: Integrating Theory with Empirical Data 9/1/2015-10/31/2016



Department of Medicine



BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS *As seen in Faculty Commons

Holz GG, Chepurny OG, Leech CA, et al. Molecular Basis of cAMP Signaling in Pancreatic Beta Cells. In: 2nd Edition of The Islets of Langerhans (ed. Md. Shahidul Islam), Springer, 2015, 565-603

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Smulyan H, Pannier B. Hypertension In Men and Women: Is It Different? In, Blood Pressure and Arterial Wall Mechanics in Cardiovascular Diseases. Safar E, O'Rourke MF, Frohlich ED (eds.). Chapter 32. Springer, London,

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS *As seen in Faculty Commons

Poster

Lappin S, Christner J, Phelan L, Germain L. Does moving from a 12-week medicine clerkship experience to a 10-week medicine clerkship experience affect student academic performance? Northeast Group on Educational Affairs (NEGEA) Conference, Boston, Mass, March 2015 and Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM), Oct. 2015

International Presentations

Ruban Dhaliwal, MD, Medicine, presented "What Every Primary Doctor Needs to Know About Pheochromocytoma and Paraganglioma" at the Pheochromocytoma and Paraganglioma 2015 International Conference, Syracuse, NY, Nov. 2015

Ruth S. Weinstock, MD, PhD, Medicine, presented "Insulin Pumps and Glucose Sensors," "Microvascular Complications of Diabetes," "Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease" and "Insulin Treatment of Type I Diabetes," as Invited Lecture Presentations for the Salzburg Columbia University Seminar in Diabetes, Salzburg, Austria, Dec. 13-19, 2015.

National Presentations

Ruban Dhaliwal, MD, Medicine, presented "Diabetes and Skeletal Health" as an invited William F. Neuman Visiting Scientist Speaker at the Center for Musculoskeletal Research, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, Oct. 2015.

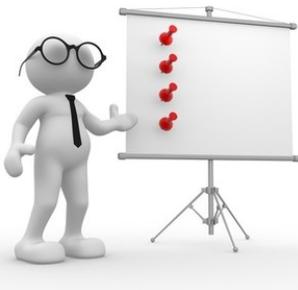
Ruth S. Weinstock, MD, PhD, Medicine, presented "Telehealth", an Invited Lecture Presentation at the Joslin Diabetes Center Affiliated Programs Annual Meeting, Boston MA, Oct. 15, 2015.

George G. Holz, PhD, Medicine and Pharmacology, was invited by the Biomedical Pharmacology Discussion Group at the New York Academy of Sciences to be a speaker at the GLP-1: Challenges and Opportunities for Treating Diabetes and other Diseases Symposium at the New York Academy of Sciences Headquarters in New York City, Dec. 8, 2015.

Roberto Izquierdo, MD, Medicine, presented "Diabetes Across the Lifespan", the keynote presentation at the 15th Annual CNY Diabetes Forum, Syracuse, NY, Nov. 4, 2015.

ADULT SLEEP TEACHING DAY

The Upstate departments of Medicine and Neurology present the Adult Sleep Teaching Day. It will be held Saturday, May 7th from 8:00 AM—12:30 PM. It will be in the Oasis/HealthLink building at Carrier Circle. The organizing committee agreed to have residents and fellows register for free at www.upstate.edu/sleepday. Attending registration is \$60 and will obtain 3.75 CME credits. You can also e-mail sleep@upstate.edu or call the Upstate Sleep Center at (315) 487.5337.



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HEALTHLINK ON AIR



Strategies for living with, caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease

"Upstate geriatrician [Andrea Berg, MD](#), tells what to expect from loved ones with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia who are likely to struggle with short-term memory, language, reasoning and judgment. She discusses communication techniques, when and how to take the car keys away and the potential perils of wandering, as well as medical issues including depression and incontinence."

[HealthLink on Air, Dr. Berg](#)

Getting to Know Upstate's President

Being born in a poor country, training as a pediatrician, teaching medical students and working in impoverished areas have all contributed to the background of [Upstate Medical University's](#) new president, [Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD](#), tells of her birth in Haiti, her upbringing from age 7 in New York City and her passion for the rigors of medical research as well as the need for doctors to get real-life experience and for medical care to reach the underprivileged. She also takes a look at the future of medical education and health care.

[HealthLink On Air, Dr. Laraque-Arena](#)



What You Need To Know About The Zika Virus

Most people infected with the mosquito-borne Zika virus show no symptoms, and the disease is not a threat to human life, says Upstate infectious disease expert [Timothy Endy, MD](#). Pregnant women exposed to Zika run the risk of their babies being born with abnormally small heads, which is why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant to avoid the Olympic games in Brazil later this year. Endy says the virus has been transmitted sexually from men to women and appears to be able to live in urine and semen for a month. So far, mosquitoes carrying Zika have been found in 10 or 12 countries in South America, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Subtropical mosquitoes feed in the daytime and prefer shady environments, so Endy recommends protecting yourself with insect repellents if you are traveling to those areas.

[HealthLink on Air, Dr. Endy](#)



April is National Donate a Life Month. "Donate Life" events were held at Upstate the week of April 18th. These included festivities in the Performance Center and a cook-off. The purpose was to increase awareness of Organ donations, particularly the program here at Upstate. For those who aren't aware, our Interim Chair, Dr. Narsipur, has also been the Director of Transplant Nephrology since 1996.



Give thanks. Give life.

Department of Medicine

MATCH DAY FOR COM STUDENTS



This year the COM students had a 98% match! As seen on [Upstate Online](#): Looks of anticipation and excitement were evident in the faces of Upstate Medical University's fourth-year medical students who participated in National Match Day (March 18), a day when graduating medical students from across the country learned where they will train in their chosen specialties.

Upstate successfully placed 98 percent of its students with residency positions—surpassing the national match rate of 94 percent. The students, their families, teachers and advisors celebrated Match Day at the Oncenter in downtown Syracuse with activities that included a special viewing of the student-produced video [“Shut Up and Match,”](#) a parody of the song “Shut Up and Dance” by Walk the Moon. A highlight of the event was the distribution of envelopes at noon that contained the location of each student's residency position. In all, 155 Upstate medical students participated in the 2016 National Match Day event.

“We are very proud of the College of Medicine Class of 2016,” said Julie R. White, PhD, dean of Student Affairs at Upstate. “They are accomplished, ambitious and focused on all the right things. Throughout their time at Upstate, the class has worked in collaboration with faculty and administration to ensure that the student experience is the very best. Upstate Medical University is a better place because they were here. I will miss them!”

Upstate President Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, spoke to students just before they found out where they would match. “Wherever you go, you're doing important work,” she said. “You will bring with you your heart, science, knowledge and dedication to your new location and make a difference.”

Match Day was established in 1952 by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) of the Association of American Medical Colleges. The matching program provides an orderly and fair way to match the preferences of applicants for U.S. residency positions with the residency program's choice of applicants. It also provides a common time for the announcement of the appointments, as well as an agreement for programs and applicants to honor the commitment to offer and accept an appointment if a match results.

At Upstate Medical University:

- 70 medical students will enter the primary care specialties comprised of: internal medicine (41 students); pediatrics (19 students); medicine pediatrics (2 students); and family medicine (8 students).
- 88 students will remain in New York state.
- 24 students will remain in Syracuse: 21 as medical residents at Upstate University Hospital and 3 at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center.

In addition to matching its students to programs throughout the country, Upstate University Hospital must also fill its own residency positions.

According to William Grant, EdD, Upstate associate dean for graduate medical education, Upstate has filled all of its 132 resident positions offered in this match.

“We are very satisfied with the Match results and our continuing ability to attract the best of new resident applicants,” said Grant.

Since 1952, the NRMP has served as an initial indicator of the career interests of U.S. medical school graduates and other physicians who seek training in U.S. residency programs.

In the months prior to Match Day, students submit resumes and interview at hospitals. In February, both hospitals and students rank their choices for placement. The match process is conducted primarily through the Web—a computer center in Washington, D.C., the National Resident Matching Program—generates the matches.

Special appearances in the “Shut Up and Match” video are made by Drs. Dhamoon and Knohl!



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CENTRAL NEW YORK RESEARCH RECEPTION

The American Cancer Society will hold the Central New York Research Reception on Thursday May 5th in Weiskotten Hall, 9th floor cafeteria from 8:00-10:30 AM. There will be breakfast, presentations, and a tour. A special presentation is to be given by Susanna Greer, PhD, Director, Clinical Research and Immunology, American Cancer Society. *RSVP by Thursday, April 28th to:* Ellen Mullen, Ellen.Mullen@cancer.org, (315) 433.5640



Other speakers include:

Jeffrey A. Bogart, MD, Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology

Leszek Kotula, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Urology

Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP, President, Upstate Medical University

Bernard Poiesz, MD, Professor of Medicine

Lloyd Withers, Senior Market Manager, Community Engagement, American Cancer Society

NEW FACULTY



Dr. Amit Bhardwaj will be joining our department this Spring. He will be joining the General Internal Medicine division as a Clinical Instructor of Medicine. He received his MD at St. George's University School of Medicine, and finished up his residency here, Upstate Medical University in December of 2015.



Dr. Amishi Desai will be joining the Hematology/Oncology division this July as an Assistant Professor. She received her MBBS at K.J. Somaiya Medical College and Research Centre in Mumbai, India. She completed her residency at Winthrop University Hospital, and is currently there finishing up her fellowship. *(Picture will be provided as soon as it is available)*

Dr. Anish Desai will be joining the Pulmonary/Critical Care division this July as an Assistant Professor. He received his MBBS at K.J. Somaiya Medical College and Research Centre in Mumbai, India. He completed his residency at Winthrop University Hospital, and is currently there finishing up his fellowship. *(Picture will be provided as soon as it is available)*



Dr. Harvir Singh Gambhir will be joining the General Internal Medicine division this July as an Assistant Professor. He received his MBBS at Santosh Medical College in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India. He then received his MD at the Himalayan Institute of Medicine in Utrakand, India. He completed his residency here at Upstate Medical University, and is currently finishing up his Chief Residency here as well.

Dr. Ritu Garg will be joining the General Internal Medicine division this July as a Clinical Instructor of Medicine. She received her MBBS at Pt. B.D.S PGIMS Pohtak in India. She completed her OB/GYN residency at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre & Hospital, Mumbai University, India. Presently, she is finishing up her internal medicine residency at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo, OH. *(Picture will be provided as soon as it is available)*

Department of Medicine

NEW FACULTY Cont.'d



Dr. Ghanshyam Ghelani will be joining the General Internal Medicine division this July as a Assistant Professor. He received his MBBS at B.J. Medical College in Ahmedabad, India. He is currently finishing up his last few months of residency at The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education in Scranton, PA.



Dr. Carlos Martinez-Balzano will be joining the Pulmonary/Critical Care division this July as an Assistant Professor. He received his MD at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He completed his residency here, Upstate Medical University and is presently finishing up his fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.



Dr. Stephen Thomas will be joining the Infectious Disease division this July as an Assistant Professor. He received his MD at Albany Medical College and completed his Internal Medicine residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.. Dr. Thomas completed his Infectious Diseases fellowship at the National Capital Consortium.



Dr. Ahmed Shawkat will be joining the Pulmonary/Critical Care division this August as an Assistant Professor. He received his MBChB at the University of Tripoli (Al-Fateh University) in Libya, and his MD at Crozer-Chester Medical Center/ Temple University in Pennsylvania. He is currently finishing up his Pulmonary/CC fellowship here at Upstate Medical University Hospital.

Dr. Kristopher Paolino will be joining the Infectious Disease division this August as an Assistant Professor. He received his MD at SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and completed his Infectious Diseases fellowship there as well. *(Picture will be provided as soon as it is available)*

RESEARCH DAY RECEPTION



On the afternoon of April 11th in Weiskotten Hall a reception was held to recognize the recent funding success. The following doctors from our department were recognized:

Sharon Brangman, MD
 Timonhy Endy, MD, MPH
 Sriram Narsipur, MD
 Andras Perl, MD, PhD
 Mark Polhemus, MD
 Elizabeth Asiago Reddy, MD
 Christine Stork-Medicis, PharmD
 Ruth Weinstock, MD, PhD

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RESEARCH DAY RECEPTION Cont.'d



Drs. Ruth Weinstock and Sharon Brangman



Drs. Sharon Brangman, Ruth Weinstock, and Sriram Narsipur



Drs. Mark Polhemus and Sriram Narsipur



Upstate Medical University

RESEARCH DAY RECEPTION Cont.'d



RECOGNITION DINNER

This year's Recognition dinner will be held on Friday, June 10th at the OnCenter at 5:30 PM. The dinner is held to recognize the graduating residents and fellows.

THANK YOU!

Once again, a special thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter, especially the editors of Upstate Online and the Faculty Commons from which some of this news is borrowed. Thank you and we hope you keep the stories coming! Please forward any news, updates, pictures, etc. to editor Priscilla Hernandez for future publications.