



<http://www.upstate.edu/gch/education/crier.php>

New Faculty!

Welcome, Dr. Melanie Comito



The Department of Pediatrics warmly welcomes Dr. Melanie Comito as our new chief of the Division of Pediatric Heme/Onc. Dr.

Comito tells the Crier,

"I am originally an Iowa native and the Midwest will always be close to my heart. My education, fellowship training, and early faculty career were at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. We have lived on the east coast for the past 16 years in Hershey, PA where I have spent the majority of my career. During my time at Penn State Hershey Children's, I developed and directed the pediatric neuro-oncology program as well as being the director of the fellowship program in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. I am excited about the challenges and opportunity of being a division director.

My husband, Spencer Brown, is a child psychiatrist. We have 2 children, Kristen and Ethan, who are currently students at Penn State University. We enjoy winter sports as well as hiking/bicycling. As hardy Midwesterners, we are unafraid of snow/cold. We look forward to exploring upstate NY."

Again, we warmly welcome you to our Department, Dr. Comito!

Welcome, Jan Bach!

The Department of Pediatrics welcomes back Dr. Jan Bach who started working in the OPD on March 1st. Dr. Bach tells the Crier: "My wise older brother once told me we're all born with homing devices. Little did I know that mine would kick in and lead me merrily back to my Upstate family and a new chapter in my life. I am so excited to be home again with old friends and attendings, and learning new things everyday with fresh faces and opportunities. I return with a wide range of interests and a renewed thirst for learning.

As a resident I arrived fresh from Wright State University SOM with a

non-traditional past, having served in the Army, among other things, and with three school-aged children in tow.



From Upstate I returned to my hometown of Oneida, NY and thoroughly enjoyed being a small town, rural physician for over 12 years. But as those years went by I sought out ways to offer my skills to many other groups in my community becoming the medical advisor for the Madison County CAC, as well as the Child Fatality review team. I also served as a Physician Champion for Oneida Healthcare's EHR implementation, something my children found very amusing...."Mom, really? They pay you to help with the computer system?". Proving you can teach an old dog new tricks. In addition, I was very pleased to be named to the Board of Trustees at Oneida Healthcare, an opportunity that has helped me broaden my knowledge in this challenging healthcare environment while serving my neighbors.

Over the years I've also become passionate about those in need around the world and I relish the chance to combine patient care and travel. My first exposure was a trip to Mozambique as a third year resident. Since then there have been many trips to Nicaragua, and a chance to venture to Nepal last year with Remote Area Medical, the last group of volunteers allowed in by the WHO immediately after the earthquake.



My new Upstate family has been so welcoming and I am so thankful to be back. I can't wait to see what this next chapter of my life holds in store!"

Frontiers in Science

March 2-6, 2016 was the annual meeting of AMSPDC (Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs) in Savannah, GA. Dr. Welch was invited to select one resident from our program, with an interest in research, to attend the conference with him. This year, Yorgo Zahlanie (PL2) was his guest and was able to participate in the PSDP/FIS - Pediatric Scientist Development Program and Frontiers in Science Program. This program allows selected residents (PL-1 or PL-2) to have the opportunity to meet with their peers, hear from a select group of previously identified Pediatric Scientist Development Program (PSDP) trainees, and talk with Chairs from other Departments of Pediatrics from both the U.S. and Canada. Pictured are Dr. Welch and Yorgo, Dr. Bob Willmot, Chair of Peds at St. Louis University and his resident guest, Amelia Bray-Aschenbrenner.



A Close Shave

It is almost time for the Annual St. Baldrick's head shaving event to raise money for Pediatric Cancer Research. We have three members of the Department who will be among the shaves this year; Lori Grabowski, RN, Tara Wilhoit, and Tracy Kalinowski, RN. If you haven't yet done so, it is not too late to sponsor any or all of these brave ladies. To donate go to www.stbaldricks.org and search Lori Grabowski, or go to www.stbaldricks.org/teams/mypage/105826/2016 for Tracy and Tara. Or, you can give any (or all of them) a check.

Child Life Month

The March Child Life month was another great success this year that was packed full of exciting events. Special programs included the MOST, Twin Magicians, Irish step dancers, Skippy ice cream, McCarthy Family Singers and Jeff the Magician. The Boy Scouts came and held their annual Pinewood Derby car race, and soldiers from Fort Drum competed in the Minute-to-Win it challenge. The team also hosted a student teaching day for those interested in Child Life as a career, and gave a presentation at Grand Rounds. New this year, there was a special emphasis on the Art and Music Therapy offered on a daily basis. We are thankful for our wonderful child life team and all they do to make our patients' stay at the GCH as positive an experience as possible.



The 2016 Child Life SU Theme day was another one of the exciting events of Child Life month. There was a competition (with prizes) for whichever team had the highest percentage of entries. There ended up being four areas that had 100% participation including Upstate Peds, B'Ville. 11 G - 1st Shift. Peds ER - 1st Shift and Peds ER- 2nd shift. So, Child Life put all four teams into a hat and had a random drawing for first prize. The winner of the snack attack basket was Peds ER - 2nd shift! But the other three teams also received prizes as well for their efforts.



Our Gold Standards

Congratulations to Zafer Soultan and Beth Nelsen who each received a Gold Standard

Award at the Celebration of the Faculty, on Wednesday March 16th.

Dr. Botash presented them their awards (and sent a great picture of them to the Crier). We are so proud of them both!



Friend of Social Work Award

Congratulations to the Child Life Team who received the Friend of Social Work Award from the department of social work during Social Work Month to an individual or a department that has been a "friend" and supporter of social work throughout the year. Margaret Nellis was informed that "This year we have chosen to recognize Child Life as our Friend of Social Work. We would like to invite Child Life to a small reception on Friday March 11th at 1:00pm for cake and celebration".

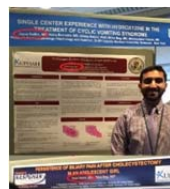


Community Team Spirit Award

Congratulations to Drs. Domachowske and Suryadevara who are recipients of the Salvation Army's annual "Community Team Spirit Award" for their help with vaccines at the SA's annual Christmas Bureau. The award will be presented to them at the fall Civic Celebration Luncheon.

Our Beyond the Doctorates

Thanks to Dr. Kennedy for submitting pictures from the GME Beyond the Doctorate research day on March 9th which included three peds residents (Iman Naimi, Joyce Saliba, and Danyal Thaver) at their poster session. We are very proud of all three of them. If you missed the session, they will be presenting their posters again at the Departmental Research Day on April 20th. (Note that only Danyal happened to be at his poster, at the time these pictures were taken).



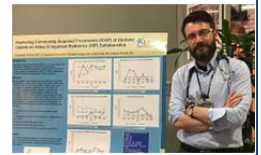
National Patient Safety Winner!



Congratulations to our very own Helena Gutierrez whose poster was chosen as one of the top five winners in Upstate's first ever hospital-wide Quality and Patient Safety Poster presentation. This was part of Upstate's celebration of National Patient Safety Week from March 13-17. Pediatrics was well represented with posters submitted by several faculty, nurses, and residents. Out of all of the posters submitted, Helena received a rosette ribbon for her poster entitled, "Standardizing the Care of Patients with Hepatitis B Virus Infection". Pictured is Christopher DeLaney in front of the poster he

co-authored with Drs. Schafer, Prince, Quigley and Smith. Jia Maan's poster was also included in the presentations.

Thank you to Dr. Schafer for all her hard work in helping to give Peds such a prominent place in this event.



The Hannans in Hawaii

The Crier is thankful to former Upstate NP Carol Cambareri for submitting the following picture taken of the Hannans in Hawaii. While we would have preferred a picture with hula girls and leis, it is still very nice to know that after all this time, Carol still remembers to share news items with the Crier.



April Events:

4/15 – PL2 Retreat
4/15 - Upstate Presidential inauguration
4/20 – Peds Dept Research Day
4/22 – PL3 Retreat

Baby Vedella

Congratulations to Whitney Vedella on the birth of Jeffrey Vedella Jr, born on 3/8/16.



In Loving Memory-Robert Kanter



We are sad to announce the passing of a long-time member of the Department. Dr. Bob Kanter was a PICU attending here at Upstate for over 30 years and was Division Chief at the time he left in 2014. He was loved by faculty, staff and residents. He was also known for the artwork he loved to do in his free time. http://www.syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2015/01/sotomayor_and_kanter_and_yankees_and_painting.html Dr. Kanter passed away on 3/28/16. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Brittney Whitford
4/10 Sara Tarolli
4/20 Mide Ajagbe
4/21 Carol Plumley