



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

### New Faculty: Welcome, Dr. Philip Monteleone



We are excited to welcome our newest member of the Department. Dr. Philip Monteleone joined the Heme/Onc

Division in February and shares the following:

I have been a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist for over 25 years, first 8 years in Springfield, MA, a brief stint in Missouri then last 16 years at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, PA. I came to Syracuse to work with a friend/colleague Dr. Melanie Comito and to finally work in a real Children's hospital. Dr. Comito and I were a year apart in Residency and Fellowship.

I love doing lots of different clinical things in Peds Heme/Onc but especially thrombosis, brain tumors, sickle cell disease and most recently Adolescent and Young adult cancer. I am excited to get involved in the clinical research side of things through the Children's Oncology group (was PI at LVH).

My wife Robin is a Pediatric nurse (looking for a job!). Our oldest daughter Emily is a NICU nurse outside of Phila, son Drew is PT doc in California and youngest daughter Sarah finishing grad school at Penn State this May. I am crazy active runner, slow, but have done 20 half marathons, 8 marathons and 1 50K race.

Excited to be here! – Phil

Welcome Back, Dr. Mittiga!

A warm welcome to our newest hospitalist, Dr. Matt Mittiga who has returned to us after completing his residency in 2011. Dr. Mittiga shares the following:

"I am so happy to be back 'home', in the Pediatrics Department at Upstate! For those of you that I haven't met before, I originally came to Upstate in 2008 to do my residency. After 3 years I graduated and began working in primary care in Utica in 2011. There I had a very busy practice doing

inpatient, outpatient, and nursery. I started getting back into the Upstate world when I began moonlighting at After Hours in 2015, and then later on when Dr. Andrade asked me to help cover the weekends for the hospitalist service. While covering one of these weekends, I realized I enjoyed this kind of medicine - that is to say, the kind I was trained to do - much more than my practice in Utica. So I made the leap back here and I really feel like this is what I'm meant to be doing.

At home, my wife Alyssa & I have 4 small children (who seemed to arrive yearly while I was a resident - blame the 80 hour work week?).

Dominic is 11, Jojo is 8, Alivia is 7 & Stephen is 5. We have a small hobby farm with chickens, a turkey, and a

couple of piggies in the summer. My wife refuses to let me get a dairy cow, but I do have a tractor that I love dearly. I also tap about 150 maple trees and produce about 25 gallons of maple syrup a year.

Outside of family and medicine, my main passion in life is fly fishing. Since becoming an attending I have been able to devote more time & travel to this, and I particularly enjoy making a yearly summer trip to Montana to fish. I'm looking forward to a passing on this love of mine to my kids.

So great to be back with everyone!"

### Child Life Welcomes Bridget Hussey

We are pleased to introduce the newest member of the Child Life Family and warmly welcome Bridget Hussey, who will be working in Peds Surgery on 11E. Bridget tells the Crier:

"Originally from the small town of Columbus, WI (just 30 min north of Madison), I graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 2014 with my BS in Human Development and Family Studies with a certificate in Leadership. I discovered the field of Child Life when I was volunteering at the American Family Children's Hospital in Madison, WI during college. I loved that it combined my two passions – working with

children, and the healthcare setting. As I continued to pursue Child Life as a post-grad I did my Child Life clinical internship at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and taught 4K preschool for two years. When I was applying to Child Life jobs, I was attracted to the full-time inpatient surgery position here at Golisano. During my interview I fell in love with the hospital and felt so welcomed by the staff members I met. Though I have no prior connections to Syracuse, I moved across the country with no hesitations! Child Life is a very specialized, competitive field and I'm so thankful for the opportunity to join the team at GCH.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time outside, traveling, exploring new restaurant/coffee shops, and watching movies.



### Child Life SU Theme Day

March was Child Life Month and as a part of the festivities, everyone in the Department was invited to participate in an SU theme day on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The unit with the highest percentage of staff wearing orange was promised a "snack attack" prize. Child Life received over 20 entries checking in with at least 100% (the Peds Offices submitted 180%, by the way). So, the winners were determined by a random drawing. The Crier was notified by Child Life that the winners were as follows: Large Group: 1st Place is the PICU Staff Second Place is UPAC Small Group: First Place is the Family Behavior Unit, Second Place is the Adult Emergency Department.



For more pictures, see online. For more on Child Life Month visit

<http://upstateonline.info/static/March2-March92017/blog/story-3/index.html>

### Sashi at AMSPDC

Dr. Welch attended the annual meeting of AMSPDC (Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs) in March, which, once again, featured the Frontiers in Science workshops to which the chairs are invited to bring a resident. PL1 Sashi Goteti was his guest this year. Previous residents who participated in this include Steve Hicks and Yorgo Zahlanie.

### 2016 PEA Award Winners!

Congratulations to the entire staff of 12E who were informed that they were recipients of the 2016 Inpatient Patient Experience Award which was based on unsolicited patient feedback given to caregivers and teams "who demonstrated empathy, compassion, and going beyond the call of duty." They were honored at the Patient Safety luncheon on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Beyond the Doctorate Research Day

Congratulations, once again, to our departmental researchers, Drs. El Chebib, Saini, Moradi, and Krieger. All four participated in the Beyond the Doctorate Research Day on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Hassan El Chebib, MD's presentation was "Neutrophil Activation in Infants Hospitalized with Severe Respiratory Viral Infections." Valdeep Saini, PhD is a post doctorate in our Family Behavior Analysis clinic. His presentation was "Applied and Translational Evaluations of Context Removal." Residents Jasmin Moradi and Beth Krieger each had posters at the poster session. We are very proud of all four of our departmental researchers.



### PL2 Retreat

The 14 PL2s, plus two program directors, a few spouses, one mom, and four babies all enjoyed a day off at the annual PL2 Retreat at Destiny USA on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The morning started out on the ropes course, lunch at Cantina



Laredo, followed by laser tag at WonderWorks. Rumor has it that the one person who refused to shoot anyone with her laser gun, ended up winning the game.

### Just Married

Congratulations to Sashi Goteti and his new bride, Nidhi Pandya, who were married on February 19, 2017 in Mumbai, India. Sashi tells the Crier that Nidhi is a chemical engineer working for the city of Calgary, but (thankfully), will be joining Sashi here in June. Their honeymoon was a quick stopover in Paris and London. We wish them the very best!



### Where Are They Now?

Dr. Botash discovered an article about former resident **Manuella Lahoud-Rahme, MD** (Residency Class of 2004) who is currently a Pediatric Cardiologist at MassGeneral Hospital for Children. Manuella completed part of her Cardiology fellowship here at Upstate <http://www.massgeneral.org/children/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=6208>

### J-Peds Jenny!

Congratulations to our former resident (and current Pulmonary Fellow) Jenny Lin (Class of 2014) who shared with us that a Case Report article she recently wrote as 1st author has been e-published in The Journal of Pediatrics. The Case Report will be part of the article published for the April 2017 print edition of The Journal of Pediatrics. The article, entitled "Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis in Association with Secondary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis" is at the following link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28088396>



Jenny tells the Crier, "I have actually run into Dr. Soultan and some nurse practitioners at the last American Thoracic Society (ATS) conference and Sleep conference in the last few years. The case report in the published article was part of a poster discussion session at the last ATS conference in San Francisco in May 2016. It led to my interest in rare diffuse lung diseases and inspired me to help build a local branch of the national children's interstitial and diffuse lung disease (chILD) network here at my current hospital in the past 2 years. I will also be presenting my senior research project at this year's ATS conference as well."

Some may also remember Jenny as our resident nature photographer. Jenny shared a few shots from her recent travels to Greece and Hawaii.

### Mount Impossible

Dr. Welch shared the following inspiring story sent to him by Dr. Cherrick about a former Upstate patient along with the opportunity to support him in his mission to support the GCH.

"I would like to pass on a brief story about a remarkable survivor we care for and his next goal setting which we can all be a part of. Although many of you know Tim Conners and his story, let me summarize for you below. Tim, who lives with his family in Fulton, was diagnosed on an Easter Weekend with T-cell ALL and was acutely ill at the time of his presentation. He was admitted to Golisano Children's Hospital and started treatment within hours. He entered remission however at the completion of consolidation chemotherapy, he presented on a weekend with acute vision loss. He was diagnosed with an optic nerve relapse and despite aggressive attempts developed complete blindness. He then suffered multiorgan failure in the ICU after his bone marrow transplant and surprisingly to many, returned to Golisano a few months later to begin recovering closer to home.

Tim is the first to say that his experience with cancer has changed his life and the way he looks at life. He is currently at senior at Ithaca college with a near 4.0 GPA, active in inspirational speaking and has recently published his first book. He reached out to me to ask for support on his next journey. He is embarking to raise money for organizations which he has carefully chosen and Golisano Children's Hospital is one of four organizations. He is going to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and his mission is to raise \$500,000.

Please consider donating and forwarding to anyone who might help with his mission. This is a unique way to support a survivor who has truly embraced that word and raise money for ourselves. Please look at the brief statement he wrote on why he chose us as one of his organizations"

[www.mountimpossible.com/organizations/](http://www.mountimpossible.com/organizations/)

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/20 Mide Ajagbe

4/21 Carol Plumley, Janice Verbosky