



A Match Made in Heaven

We thought we would start the April Crier with our awesome list of the Class of 2024. We are extremely excited about this year's new interns and owe much of our success to the awesome classes of 2021-2023 who did such a fabulous job of recruiting such a great incoming class!

- Allison Clack, St. George's Univ
- Clara El Nakib, American Univ of Beirut
- Evans, Akilah Ife, St. George's Univ
- Sarah Hendrix, Ross University
- Hegewald, Kaitlyn, Univ of Cincinnati
- Hadassah McCray, Liberty Univ COM
- Abeir Mohamed, Univ of Khartoum
- Avnee Nulkar, Univ College Cork
- Adil Siddiqui, Dow Medical College
- Ayat Siddiqui, Aga Khan University
- Lexi Sirota, Touro COM Middletown
- Sarah Sloan, Univ College Dublin
- Aly Soliman, Menoufia University
- Thomas, Lauren, Med Univ Americas
- Elena Wolner, SUNY Upstate



AOA, Oh Eh?

Congratulations to THREE (3) of the Pediatric Residents who were elected into the Gamma Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. We were delighted to learn that our very own Rohan Akhouri, Dean Karahalios, and Holly Stacey are now official members of AOA! They received the following: "Each of you have demonstrated excellence in leadership, research, service, mentorship, and education among many other notable qualities... your assets and skills are clearly impressive as was evidenced by your nominations and your applications! I look forward to you all sharing your talents with us as we all strive to 'be worthy to serve the suffering'." Dean told the Crier, "It's honestly surreal to have been nominated and selected for the AOA. But I'm incredibly thankful to all of the faculty, coresidents, and everyone here at Upstate who motivates me to be a better doctor, scholar, and person every day!"

The NYS AAP Virtual Advocacy Day

Drs. Berry and Karahalios

New York State AAP Virtual Advocacy Day
This year's AAP Advocacy Day served as a perfect opportunity to look back at all that has changed due to the pandemic. In 2020, myself and 5 residents piled in cars, gathered in crowded function rooms, even more crowded busses, and walked through a capitol building in Albany filled with protesting anti-vaxxers to advocate for child health. A week later, things started to shut down. This year, advocating on behalf of child health remains as, if not more, important than when we could gather in person.

This year's event was hosted via virtual platform by a company which arranges for virtual legislative advocacy and allowed for some increased geographic diversity and number of attendees to the multiple meetings. I was thrilled to have Arani Kandeepan, Carlee Lenehan and Dean Karahalios as resident attendees. Tuesday March 16th was a series of presentations and Q&A with key legislators and AAP leadership focusing on key issues – the most concentrated of which was funding and proposed bills to address child poverty. Those who could attend this session heard from Richard Gottfried, NYS Assemblyperson and Chair of the Assembly Health Committee and Gustavo Rivera, NYS Senator and Chair of the Senate Health Committee. They shared their thoughts/impressions on the legislative landscape for children's health and well-being. Following this, two primary sponsors of the Child Poverty Reduction Act – Assemblymember Harry Bronson from the Rochester area and Senator Jessica Ramos from the downstate area – spoke about the details of the legislation which includes tools to reduce child poverty and specifically creates public commitment to cutting child poverty in half by 2030.

Elie Ward, MSW, Director of Policy and Advocacy for the 3 NY chapters of the AAP then gave guidance on how to highlight key issues like child poverty, portions upcoming budget vote essential to child health, legislation to improve water quality in schools, post partum Medicaid expansion, insurance coverage for EPSDT priorities, telehealth legislation, the AAP's stance on hot button issues like marijuana legalization

and school reopening, to name a few.

This helped prepare the group for scheduled legislative visits with their local representatives. Dean will share his experiences below:

The Dean's Report

By Dean Karahalios

I was thrilled to represent AAP New York Chapter 1 at Advocacy Day in Albany again this year. After filling out a simple form with my availability, obtaining an appointment with Senator Rachel May's staff was effortless and we were able to cover a lot of ground within just a 30-minute video call.

Drawing on my PL1 talk as well as our residency program's advocacy efforts related to marijuana over the past few years, I shared the AAP's stance about the potential side effects that marijuana legalization could have on our patient population.

Moreover, I was joined by a local community pediatrician here in Syracuse who shared her position on Medicaid expansion and elimination of the Medicaid budget cap.

Finally, some of you may know that I have been working with Dr. Andrea Shaw and many others throughout the Departments of Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, and the graduate school to characterize COVID19 transmission among refugee households. Citing national data, our observations thus far about COVID19 transmission among children, and my own clinical experience with the astronomical rates of anxiety and depression among patients in our hospital, I shared the AAP's position on school reopening.

Although it wasn't quite the same experience as advocating for children right in the State Capitol building, we had a very productive conversation and Senator May's staff were very appreciative and receptive. My hope is that more and more people will come to recognize our important role as pediatricians in the community and in government so that we can send busloads of residents next year and in years to come!

ESPR's Best Case Scenario

Congratulations to Dr. Vaishali Adlakha who won the Case Competition Award for the best case submitted to the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research for their 33rd Annual ESPR Meeting! Her case, "Healthy Toddler with a Refusal to Walk" with co-authors, Dr. Rohan Akhouri, Dr. Saurabh Gupta, and Dr. John Andrade was chosen for the best clinical case presentation award and was selected from over 60 clinical case submissions. It was also chosen, along with Aarani Kandeepan's case, as one of only eight presentation opportunities. Aarani presented "Increasing Flu Vaccinations in Vaccine Hesitant Families Using a Standardized Educational Approach". Both were presented on March 10th. We are so proud of Vaishali and Aarani. If you would like to hear either of these talks email them and they can send you an mp4 recording of their presentation.

Just Married

Congratulations to our very own Anam Farooqui who got married on March 23rd. Anam and Usman were married in Albany. We hope to have pictures for you in our next issue! We wish them the very best in their new life together!

Above and Beyond the Doctorate

On March 3rd, 11 Pediatric Residents participated in the 2021 GME Beyond the Doctorate Research Day. Our very own Rohan Akhouri was selected among residents and fellows hospital-wide to be one of the presenters.

Later that afternoon, 11 out of the 28 posters that were accepted, hospital-wide were by peds residents as first authors. This includes Vaishali Adlakha, Sophie Duron, Veena Gopolakrishan, Richard Johnson, Aarani Kandeepan, Dean Karahalios, Carlee Lenehan, Laura Mejia-Connolly, Jean Meneses, Asmita Sharma, and Holly Stacey. We are very proud of our residents and were definitely the talk of the GME office that day!

Frontiers in Peds Research

We were excited to learn that two of our residents were accepted to the 2021 Frontiers in Science Symposium held on March 5th. Congratulations to Richard Johnson and Laura Mejia-Connolly who were both notified of their acceptance. And congratulations to our Peds fellow, Dr. Danielle Daniels who was accepted to

the APS SPR Journeys & Frontiers in Pediatric Research program.

This unique program has been redesigned as a series of six virtual sessions to begin February 12 and concluding on May 17th at the PAS 2021 Meeting. These are great honors for all three of our residents and fellows as they explore these new frontiers.
Dr. Jennifer Nead

EDUCATION CORNER

WANTED: Faculty & Resident Volunteers!

The next academic year for the Pediatrics Clerkship starts May 24th! **We currently need resident (2nd&3rd yr) and faculty volunteers to help with our formative SPE and faculty volunteers to help with our EBM small group discussion.** These opportunities are a great way to get involved with teaching medical students and look awesome on CVs! Minimal prep required and training will be provided. You can volunteer once or multiple times throughout the year! If you are interested, please contact Christine Kuehnle, Leah Bennett, or Jen Nead.

Volunteer Descriptions:

Formative SPE (Webex session) – A pediatric resident/faculty role plays a caregiver (parent or grandparent) of a neonate with jaundice. The student performs a focused history and narrated exam. Then the resident/faculty provides the student with feedback using provided checklists. The SPE is remote and scheduled at a time that works for both the student and faculty. Time commitment: ~45 minutes per session

EBM (Webex session) – A faculty volunteer meets with 4-5 students. Each student presents a clinical question that came up on the rotation (PICO format) and an evidence based medicine presentation (max 5 minutes). Faculty evaluate the question/presentation using a provided checklist. After each presentation, faculty provide teaching points and facilitate a brief discussion. No preparation required. Time commitment: ~50 min-1 hour per session

The Pediatric Gold Standard Winners

Just a reminder that three of our faculty have been selected for this year's Gold Standard Awards. Drs. Steve Blatt, Jenica O'Malley, and Jana Shaw will be honored at a virtual Celebration of the Faculty, on 4/20 at 5pm.

Another Jolly Good Fellow!

Congratulations to former resident Laura Miller (2020) who has accepted a position for a Pulmonology Fellowship at Children's Hospital at Montefiore. She will be starting in July.

Chair are they now

Former resident (1988) and faculty member, Dr. Coleen Cunningham has accepted a position as Pediatric Chair at UC Irvine and Children's Health of Orange County (CHOC) in California. Dr. Cunningham shares:

"I arrived in California about 3 weeks ago and started the new job 2 weeks ago. So far, it's been great. Really great people and a wonderful institution (actually 2 institutions). I am delighted about this new opportunity.

Please feel free to share my new email address with others and let folks know that I would be delighted to have visitors in southern California. I should be moved into my new house mid-April. My official titles are Chair of Pediatrics at University of California, Irvine and Pediatrician-in-Chief and senior VP at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). Take care and tell everyone I say hello!! Coleen"

CMO in Texas

An anonymous source (thanks Sherri!) notified the Crier that former resident Khaver Kirmani (1998) was recently named CMO of Methodist Children's Hospital. Khaver tells the Crier, "Yes I am transitioning from clinical practice and Neonatology to hospital administration and starting as the Chief Medical Officer at Methodist children's hospital in San Antonio Texas as of March 22nd. There, I will be the CMO of the 200 bed children's hospital as well as the 200 hundred bed Women and infants service line." Prior to accepting the position, Khaver was a neonatologist in AZ for more than 25 years and as the Chief of Pediatrics at Banner Children's at Desert for four years. During that time he completed his MBA and Master's in Leadership. We wish him the best in his new position.



Welcome home, Baby William



We promised some updated photos on Elizabeth Paulsen's baby William who is enjoying being home with his family.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/2 Jina Patel
4/10 Shehzad Ahmed
4/11 Aarani Kandeepan, JP Ervoes
4/19 Angela Wratney
4/20 Mide Ajagbe
4/24 Jenica O'Malley