



# Pediatric Crier

## Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

<http://www.upstate.edu/gch/academics/newsletter.php>

### Welcome Dr. Leah Bennett

Most of you are probably familiar with Dr. Leah Bennett from her role in the Peds ED. But the Crier wanted to also welcome her as a member of our department and in her new role as Associate Clerkship Director. Dr. Bennett shared the following with the Crier: "Hello Pediatricians -- I am so excited to be joining the Pediatric Faculty at Upstate and particularly to have the opportunity to introduce the field we all love so much to our medical students as the new Associate Clerkship Director! I have been at Upstate as an attending in the Pediatric Emergency Department for the past 4 years and have overlapped with many of you taking care of kids here in Syracuse. As a native of Ithaca, NY, I grew up in the region, but did not spend much time in Syracuse itself until moving here. The intervening years took me all over -- from college in Maine to Central and South America for an internship with the Pan American Health Organization to Tucson, Arizona for my medical and public health training. I graduated from the Combined Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine Residency Program at the University of Arizona in 2014 and started a family during the last year of my residency. My husband (who trained in Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine) and I took our family on the road for the first few years we were out of training. We both feel a strong commitment to working with underserved populations and spent time working in a tribally run hospital serving the Yup'ik and Athabascan peoples in Alaska and at an IHS site serving the Tohono O'odham people back in Arizona before moving here to Syracuse. Since starting at Upstate, it has been my absolute pleasure to share my love of medicine with students as an instructor for the Emergency Medicine Clerkship and as a small group facilitator for the Foundations of Reasoning in Medicine and (this year) the Patients to Populations courses. During my time off, I can usually be found outdoors somewhere with my six-year-old son Soren, four-year-old daughter Saskia and I-won't-say-how-old husband Kevin exploring the

beauty of upstate NY. If you pass us on a trail, you will know it is us if you see two tired adults trying to keep up with two blond haired kids covered in mud and babbling in a mixture of Spanish and English. We love hiking/backpacking, kayaking, skiing, cycling, rock climbing and anything else that burns off a bit of our rambunctious kids' energy. I am so excited to work with everyone through my new role with the clerkship and hope to help inspire a love and respect of pediatrics in our students!"



### Pediatrics Welcomes Gina Romero

Last month we introduced our new Assistant to the Chair, Gina Romero Colombo. Gina shared the following in an exclusive interview with the Crier: "I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. The majority of my extended family, minus my older sister and parents, still reside in Colorado or in the mid-West. I met my husband at the Children's Hospital in Denver where I was working in Pediatric Surgery as an administrative assistant. He was originally from Beaver River, this is where the connection to upstate New York comes from. We were married in August 2010 and moved to Syracuse in November of that same year. We wanted a new adventure and I had never lived on the East Coast before so we thought why not. I joined Upstate in December of 2010. Before joining Pediatrics, I worked in the Radiology Department for Dr. Feiglin. My husband is a Syracuse firefighter and we have two beautiful toddlers (twins-boy/girl - Laido

and Gianna). We celebrated their second birthday in August. We are also parents to a fur baby, Chloe, who is a chiweenie and will be 10 in April. We love spending time as a family and enjoying the beautiful scenery that upstate New York has to offer.



### New Peds ED Fellowship Director

Congratulations to Dr. Erin Hanley who has accepted the position as the new Peds Emergency Medicine Fellowship Director. Erin is, of course, well known to us having been a resident (Class of 2007) and a chief resident in our department before starting her Ped ED fellowship, as well as being an Upstate Medical student. We are all very proud of Dr. Hanley!



## #EDUCATION CORNER

*The Crier is pleased to introduce a new feature which will be presented by Dr. Jennifer Nead, M.D., our Clerkship Director.*

We are happy to report that there have been no reported concerns regarding mistreatment or the learning environment for this academic year! Thank you to all of the resident and faculty preceptors who have created such a positive learning environment for the students! Here are some recent student comments about our amazing resident preceptors!

- "Dr. Bourjas was not only fantastic with patients and their families but she also treated each member of the team with genuine kindness, respect, and appreciation. She was always

approachable and was always willing to teach and answer questions thoughtfully, regardless of the competing pressures."

- "Dr. Colangelo was always smiling and kept everyone motivated with such positive energy even when things were stressful. His attitude set the tone for an enjoyable rotation and set the entire team up for success."
- "Dr. Daniels was so patient with us as we navigated the daily routine and as we learned the expectations for presentations and note writing."
- "Dr. Liverpool was extremely approachable and always willing to teach."
- "Dr. Meneses consistently treated those around him with respect and appreciation. He never made me feel small or like a lesser member of the team."
- "Not only is Dr. Miller very knowledgeable but her kindness with patients and her enthusiasm for the field has made me want to go into Pediatrics."
- "Dr. Patel's never ending patience with medical students was greatly appreciated! She was clear with note writing expectations and went above and beyond to ensure that medical students felt involved with patients while not overwhelming them with responsibilities."
- "Dr. Ramirez was very calm when we went to examine a very playful toddler and his ear. I greatly appreciated being given the opportunity to expand my skill set and his willingness to teach."

Last, but definitely not least, congratulations to Dr. Nusrat Zaman who has been highlighted as the **"Exceptional Teacher of the Month"** for month of December by the College of Medicine. This award is based on feedback from clerkship students through a survey. The winner will be featured on a poster at Weiskotten as well as on the Upstate website:

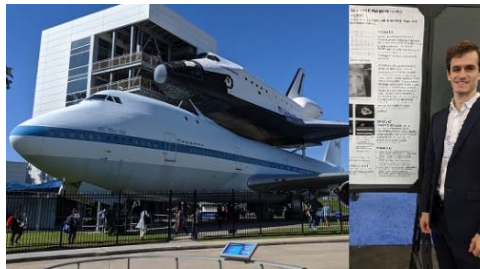
<https://www.upstate.edu/ume/exceptionalteacher.php>

### DK's most excellent adventures

The Crier got the following report from Ace Reporter Dean Karahalios after what he described as a whirlwind October:

First, I presented the poster that Sarah Baluta, Jake Anderson, and I have been working on with Dr. Lebel and Dr. Smith.

I got to hear a lot about new gene associations and everything that goes into genetic research. The conference took place with perfect timing, as I had the chance to visit the Johnson Space Center and watch the first ever all female space walk, live, right from Mission Control Center.



Second, Anam and I were honored to represent SUNY Upstate at the AAP conference in New Orleans last weekend. We joined delegates from other programs across the country to discuss and vote on advocacy issues that will eventually become part of the AAP's national advocacy agenda--highlights included gun safety, immunizations, and immigrant health at the Mexican border. We learned from experts from all specialties and listened to captivating speakers, including Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor. On Saturday night, we ate jambalaya and shrimp creole at Mother's, devoured beignets at Cafe du Monde, then got up close and personal with the historic jazz scene at Preservation Hall. Overall, it was a great experience and we are so thankful for the opportunity to go! Pictures of both conferences are attached.



Finally, my abstract with Jean Meneses and Jake Anderson was accepted at the Society of Critical Care Medicine Congress...I'm feeling very fulfilled by these opportunities, not to mention happy that Upstate's name is getting out there. Thanks!

Editor's Note: There's definitely potential for more stories and adventures from Dean in future Criers.

### Star-of-the-Month

It has been a while since we have had a star-of-the-month winner. So we are excited to announce that Dr Anam Farooqui has been

nominated for this month's star honor We received the following note from Dr. Matt Mittiga: "I nominate Anam for star of the week! For filling in on Blue Team during her vacation week. This is both admirable and horrifying, and it is the sincere hope of the hospitalist division that she refrains from further interruptions to her needed time off!" Anam chose to come in, while on her vacation, when backup was unable to be there. She was willing to give up a day of vacation to help out her fellow residents. Anam, you are a true star. Please stop by the Crier office sometime and pick out your star prize.

### A Special Achievement

Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Nead who received a Special Achievement Award from the AAP for her work in establishing a chapter-wide pediatric hospitalist committee. She received a certificate for her "distinguished service and dedication to the mission and goals of the Academy". Dr. Nead tells the Crier, "So far the committee has organized quarterly webinars on "hot topics" in pediatric inpatient medicine. This has allowed hospitalists from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Albany to collaborate and share best practice experiences including care pathways and protocols. The committee hopes that educational, QI, and research projects will originate from the webinar discussions."



### Doing the Diaper Bank

Dr. Winter Berry

I wanted to send along some action shots of all the fabulous residents (including Sarah Baluta who came on her vacation and recruited her significant other Kevin) who volunteered with me at the CNY Diaper Bank this week. I just wanted to give a shout out to these very fun and very productive volunteers who gave up some of their very precious little free time to help the kids of CNY. The pile of empty diaper boxes shows just how



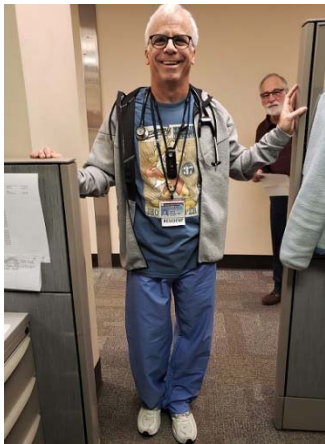


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much they got accomplished in their session! Also, thanks to Carlee specifically for all the logistics help. So glad this has become a recurring event for the residents. All of us at the CNY Diaper Bank are very grateful for their help!



#### Photo Caption Contest



In our October issue, we offered a prize to whoever could come up with the best caption for a picture that was submitted of Dr. Andrake in his Halloween costume (most of you probably didn't realize that was Dr. Andrake).

We have a winner but first, we have two honorable mentions:

- My caption is a thought bubble coming from Len's head, saying: "I always feel like the residents are getting younger and younger, but clearly not this one!" – Dr. Matt Thornton:

- John Andrade as Peter Pan: "I'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow uuuuup! Not me!" – Dr. Melissa Schafer

- 1) I have heard that night float ages you a bit but DAYUM!

- 2) Aww! Dr. Andrade is reminiscing about being a resident. Were Voceras even around way way back when he was a resident? – Dr. JP Ervoes (and the answer is, "no").

#### And the winner is.....

"When you end up going way down on your rank list..." by Dr. Asalim Thabet. Asalim, stop by for your prize (but try to avoid Dr. Andrade's office when you do).

#### December events:

- **Hospital-wide Holiday Happening** - Tuesday, Dec. 10 in the cafeteria. Breakfast from 5 to 7 a.m. and ice cream will be served from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

- **Pediatric Dept Holiday party** – Dec 12 from 1-4:30pm in the Kinney Center

- **Housestaff/Faculty holiday luncheon**- Thursday, Dec 19 – 11:00 – 1:00 PM (Santas will also be revealed).

#### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Gloria Kennedy  
12/5 Danielle Fayad  
12/18 Sophie Duron  
12/19 Carlee Lenehan  
12/23 Robert Lebel  
12/24 Linda McAleer  
12/25 LaShaun Jones  
12/28 Jennifer Nead  
12/31 Nadya Dillon