



Pediatric Crier

Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

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

Happy New Year from the New Chair

In case you missed it, his new department received the following New Year's greeting from our new chair:

"Dear Colleagues:

It is a pleasure to wish you a Happy New Year!

As you may know, I will become the Chair of Pediatrics and

Executive Director of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in March. Until then, I am working hard to leave my current position in excellent shape for my successor, while looking forward to arriving in Syracuse and getting going. Meanwhile, I am so grateful for Dr. Botash's hard work as Interim Chair!

I am optimistic about a wonderful 2019 for the Department of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital, and am looking forward to getting to know you. See you soon! - Greg Connors"

For a great introduction and bio on Dr. Connors see Upstate Online:

<http://upstateonline.info/static/Jan24-Jan312019/blog/story-3-2/index.html>

The Crier is hoping for an exclusive interview with Dr. Connors in the coming months.



Our New Child Life Manager

The Crier learned that Gina Lozito, who is well known to

us all, has officially been named as Manager for Child Life Services for the GCH.

Before taking this position,

Gina was working in the roll of Team Leader for the Child Life program, where she already had many of the Manager responsibilities of her current position.

Quoting from Jennifer Speicher's press release, "Gina has been a member of the Upstate Team for 18 years, sharing her Child Life expertise in various areas including inpatient, outpatient and surgery settings. She has a Master's degree in



Special Education from Syracuse University and contributes to education and growth of others in the field by serving as an Instructor for SU's Falk College Department of Child and Family Studies, as co-author of a chapter in a Child Life textbook, and seeking Accreditation of our Child Life Internship program by the Association of Child Life Professionals, making Upstate the first Children's hospital in New York State to do so. Gina has incredible energy, passion for growth and a keen sense of what the Child Life Team needs to better serve patients, families and integrate as part of the Pediatric care team. We are thrilled and privileged to have her in this new role! - Jennifer Speicher, MPA". Congratulations, Gina!

PRACTICE Makes Perfect

Editor's Note: The Crier is pleased to introduce this new monthly feature by Dr. Elizabeth Nelsen



The PRACTICE Committee got its start back in 2012 when Jen Nead, Beth Nelsen, and Mide Ajagbe introduced I-PASS as a standardized way to deliver verbal and written handoffs.

Over the last several years this core faculty group along with a number of dedicated residents remained engaged in not just handoff education but also in teaching residents communication skills. In 2017 we rebranded ourselves into the Provider Resilience And Communication Training In Clinical Environments (PRACTICE) Committee to reflect our commitment to improving our local environment through building resilience, developing communication skills, and delivering safe and effective patient handoffs. Our group is made up of 4 faculty members and 14 residents. We are currently working on several projects aimed at improving several facets of communication, and nearly all of our projects are carried out using quality improvement. A project on teaching students how to call consults was recently accepted as a poster at COMSEP, and we anticipate several acceptances of abstracts at APPD and PAS over the next month.

Diaper Duty

The Crier discovered what some of the residents have been doing in their free time. Carlee Lenehan explains:

"On Friday Jan 18 a few of the residents went to the CNY Diaper Bank to wrap some diapers and eat some pizza! We had an absolute blast and made a friendly competition out of who could wrap the most diapers!

In total we wrapped 6,000 diapers in an hour with the winning team alone wrapping 2,125!

The CNY diaper bank is an awesome non-profit organization that ensures free diaper supply for toddlers and babies for families in need in the Syracuse and surrounding area.

This basic need of having diapers helps to decrease stress and anxiety in families living in poverty (50% of Syracuse children <5 years old live in poverty) and means that children have less risk of severe diaper rash and other health risks. We fully intend to contribute again in the near future and are always looking for helping hands! Thanks to everyone who came out and we hope to see more faces in the future.



Ugly Sweater Winner Announced

There were so many "ugly" sweaters at this year's holiday party that the Crier was asked to have our readership vote to determine the winner. Thanks to all who cast your vote! We are pleased to announce that we do have a winner! Congratulations to Chris Maierhofer who takes the title for the second year in a

row. While all three finalists showed true excellence in ugliness, it is instructive to see why one voter chose pink: "I chose #2 because it is ugly but still practical with the stocking pockets!" – Joan Pellegrino. Chris, please stop by and pick up your prize from the Crier.



The Ugliest Sweater

Twenty-Year Trivia

After publishing its 20th Anniversary issue on 12/1/18, the Crier received the following from Dr. Blatt with some additional interesting history from 20 years ago:

"Congratulations to you and the Crier for 20 years of reporting. I think the original name, the Communicator, was on target...the Crier is one of the best means of staying in touch with Departmental news. When the Crier started in 1998, I believe the Department looked like this:

- UPAC was < 2 years old, having moved from 4 West in UH. Our patient volume then was about 12000 visits/year. We are now at about 24,000 annual visits
- Joslin was in UHCC in the space now occupied by the Maternity Center
- Cardiology and Pediatric Surgery were in the POB but all of the other specialties (Pulmonary, ID, Nephrology, Urology, Hematology, Child Development, Rheumatology, and a second Peds Surgery clinic) were in University Hospital
- McMahon Ryan didn't exist....although CARE clinic did exist within UPAC
- Syracuse was just starting to see an influx of refugees into the community
- The East Garage didn't exist and the old garage covered what is now the West Garage and the Parking lot
- There was no Cancer Center. Pediatric Patients were seen in 5C
- Upstate Pediatrics didn't exist. Neither did the Bone and Joint Center
- Dr. Weinberger was chair
- There was not a hospitalist service. UPAC attendings covered the Crouse

inpatients and other Departmental faculty covered 4A

- There were less than 40 faculty. We now have about 80 faculty
- email was not universally used in the hospital as the preferred means of communication
- Charts were on paper, radiographs were on film and both were often "Not Available"
- The current interns were probably in 3rd grade.
- Grand Rounds was at 9:15 (or maybe it was at 9:00)
- We had noon conferences. Friday noon conference had pizza.
- Work hour regulations were just being implemented and were often ignored
- St Josephs Hospital and Crouse both had Pediatric inpatient beds. Crouse had an adolescent unit
- everyone dreamed that one day there would be a Children's Hospital"

Coming This Month:

The MidWinter Dinner/Dance is scheduled for Feb 12th at The Preserve. Thanks to all the faculty who have helped to make this possible. Note: It is not too late to sponsor a resident.

Retirement Parties

Congratulations to Maureen Butler who is retired from her many years of service with our Lead Program. She was honored at a retirement party in December and was treated to a special poem written to her by Howard Weinberger. (See attached pdf for a copy of this masterpiece!)



And congratulations to Kathie Contello who also officially retired the first week of January. The department had a retirement reception for Kathie on 1/3. She will be greatly missed but we wish her the very best!



\$215,000 from Paige's Butterfly Run

After more than 20 years, Paige's Butterfly Run is still going strong. They have now raised \$3 million to support cancer research and cancer care at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. This year's Butterfly Run and associated events raised \$215,000.

(more at Upstate Online)

<http://upstateonline.info/static/Jan3-Jan102019/blog/story-3-2/index.html>

Fun February

The residents will be spending the month competing with each other in Dr. Nelsen's Second Annual Fun February. As Dr. Nelsen explains, "Fun February is a chance to go head-to-head against your residency mates in the area of creativity and ingenuity. It is a series of four separate contests, each a week long. At the end everyone votes for the best entry and the winner gets a Cafe Kubal gift card. This year we are upping the ante and if you are one of the weekly contest winners, your name gets tossed into the hat for a drawing for an Amazon Echo Show!" The Grand prize winners will be announced right here, next month.

A Victorious Loss

Rohan Akhouri sent the following report: "The official Peds IM Soccer team played their first game tonight. Our team consisted of two first years, a second year (Scott), a third year, and an attending! We played incredibly well, keeping score with the young opponents right until the end. We may have suffered a defeat in score (17-14) but we were victorious on the court!"



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/3 Julia Ciurria
- 2/14 Winter Berry, Steve Blatt
- 2/16 Nara Cho
- 2/18 Sara Batool, Leonard Weiner
- 2/19 Ryan Surujdeo
- 2/21 Kristin Hornick
- 2/22 Kate Okhman
- 2/24 Richie Cantor

An Ode to Maureen
(December 18, 2018)

You came to Upstate in 1994;
That was a very good year.
We saw your resume – too good to be true.
You passed all interviews, with good cheer.

We told you then what we planned to do-
The job description was very clear.
Keep kids from poisoning by lead;
How hard could that be? No fear!

Clean the house; wet mop the floors;
Don't eat paint chips; wash your hands.
The message to Moms was simple enough.
We thought that they'd understand.

You made posters; did flyers; built displays
Wrote newsletters for all to read.
You gave speeches, led meetings
With Nurses and Docs- whenever the need.

You took calls from Docs:
 “What should I do?
 I got a kid with a high lead test –
 How do I treat her?

What should I tell her Mom?"
You calmly put all their concerns to rest.

You asked all the right questions:
Was a Venous sample or fingerstick?
Was the CBC appropriate?
Was the test done at a good lab?
Your support and advice they'd
Appreciate!

Who would believe 25 years later,
We'd still be "singing the same song"?
The problem with lead persists;
How could we have been so wrong?

It just means that there's more work to do;
Now, You and I are nearing retirements.
No turning back; and now it's time
For the Department to find our
replacements.

So much for the poetry:

With all your experience, you can actually look
forward to being busy taking calls and giving advice-
But, on a different subject.
You'll be expected to be the Primary consultant-As a
new Grandmother- to – be!

I can share with you one piece of counsel that was passed to me by Dr Bill Bergstrom over 30 years ago when our first grandchild was on her way.

He said:

“Grand children are the only things in life that will exceed your expectations”.
(I have found that to be true ten times over.)

I would add one personal comment:

Don't expect the new parents to follow all your best advice – they'll think they know all the newest “facts” about child rearing - probably from some book or from some young Pediatrician they chose as the baby's doctor.

You're going to have to learn to bite your tongue from time to time. But I'm sure you'll all do fine.

Best wishes from all of us in the Department of Pediatrics.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Bergstrom", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.