



Pediatric Crier

Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

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

Our Exceptional Teacher

In this month's Education Corner, Dr. Nead will go into more detail about Upstate's new Exceptional Teacher Initiative but we thought we would start off this issue with a quote about one of our most recent recipients. Dr. Mide Ajagbe was the recipient of the College of Medicine's quarterly "Exceptional Teacher Initiative" award which is based on students who are surveyed and asked to explain what those teachers did that resulted in an exceptional educational experience and how it changed them. Dr. Ajagbe received a note from Interim Dean Chin stating, "What your student has described makes you part of the heart and soul of effective teaching in the College of Medicine, and I am very appreciative of your contributions." Needless to say, we all are. Congratulations, Dr. Ajagbe.

recognized by Dr. Chin, the Interim Dean of the College of Medicine, for the positive impact that they have had on students and the learning environment!

Mide Ajagbe
Danielle Daniels
Ian Dargon
Christopher Maierhofer
Jina Patel
Frank Smith
Karen Teelin
Nus Zaman

Our clerkship team would like to include a resident as an author on an upcoming medical education project (pediatric physical examination skills workshop). Please have any interested 1st or 2nd year residents contact Leah Bennett or Jen Nead.

Residents helped with dinners, tours, and lunches, with several investing hours in getting to know as many of the applicants as possible. We owe each and every one of them our thanks. Though, the biggest reward will be on Match Day, which is March 20th. We are expecting a great group for the Class of 2023 thanks to all of the residents and faculty who were so involved throughout the interview season!

Reminder: Mid-Winter Party

Just a reminder that the Mid-Winter Housestaff Party and New Faculty Reception is coming up on Tuesday, February 11th at The Preserve. Dr. Bob Dracker not only offered to be a major financial sponsor of the event but has also volunteered, along with co-worker Richard Tyler, and Cardiologist Dr. Frank Smith to help cover the floors for the big event (be sure to thank them if you see them). Stay tuned for a full report of the event in the March Crier.

Youth Shelter Paint Date – Feb 22nd

Last month we broke the story that Dr. Karen Teelin and Patty Mondore had nominated the Syracuse Rescue Mission's new Runaway & Homeless Emergency Youth Shelter for the 2020 Upstate Your Cause. The 10-bed shelter will serve runaway and homeless youth ages 12 to 17 in Syracuse and Onondaga County.

<https://rescuemissionalliance.org/emergencyyouthshelter/>

The first opportunity for volunteers at the shelter on Lancaster Ave is on Saturday, February 22nd. We will be painting as many rooms as possible. Materials and Pizza will be provided. If interested, let Patty Mondore know. At this point we only have openings left in the afternoon shift from Noon to 4:00 PM.



EDUCATION CORNER

Dr. Jennifer Nead, M.D., Clerkship Director.

After the completion of each College of Medicine semester, faculty and resident preceptors receive aggregate student evaluations and feedback comments. Faculty will receive mailed copies of their evaluations. Residents will review evaluations with their assigned faculty advisors...if you don't have an upcoming meeting with your advisor, then please schedule one to review the evaluations. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student evaluations, then please reach out to Jen Nead. Our clerkship team is extremely appreciative of our preceptors – we sincerely thank you for all of the time that you spend teaching and mentoring our students! This has definitely created a positive learning environment!

At the end of their clerkship rotation, medical students are asked to share stories about staff members who impacted them in a significant way and fostered an exceptional educational experience. Since the start of this academic year, the following faculty and residents have been

Healthy Steps Goes to Harvard

Upstate Online reported that, under Dr. Winter Berry's leadership, UPAC's Healthy Steps Program will be participating in a clinical study conducted by the JPB Research Network at Harvard on Toxic Stress. Dr. Berry told Upstate Online, "What they are shooting for is that eventually you have an objective, concrete way to assess when there's a group of kids that are exposed to similar stressors, which of them respond with resilience in the face of those stressors, which are more susceptible to biologic, – executive functioning, social and emotional – consequences. With more patient-specific information you can prioritize, you can triage, you can individualize the supports they get and potentially also follow their response to those interventions." You can read the full article at:

<http://upstateonline.info/static/Jan30-Feb62020/blog/story-3-2/index.html>

Interview Stats and Thanks!

Interviews are now complete and the match list is due shortly. We interviewed 156 candidates for our 15 spots over the course of eight interview days with approximately 20 applicants per day. We had 10 faculty members who participated in our AM faculty panels highlighting their work and areas of interest. We had an additional 12 faculty members who helped with interviews.

Representatives from the shelter came and gave a presentation to Team Upstate describing the shelter, the needs, the homeless youth population in the Syracuse area. They shared some sobering facts. In 2016, “one in 10 students in the Syracuse City School District were homeless. The district had 2,464 homeless students -- more than any school district in the state, except New York City, according to state data. That's slightly more than 10 percent of the student population of 21,000.” The 10-bed shelter will give youth a place to stay for 30-60 days while case workers will be working on finding them more permanent housing.

Upstate will be providing up to \$5000, but we will also be giving opportunities throughout the year to roll up our sleeves and help out!



Where are they now? - Former Resident’s Role in Autism Test

Upstate Online reported that the release of the first ever epigenetic test for autism.

<http://upstateonline.info/static/Jan2-Jan92020/blog/story-3-2/index.html>

What some may not be aware of us that one of the principle investigators behind this groundbreaking technology was a Pediatric resident in our program at the time the studies were getting underway. Steve Hicks, MD, Ph.D. (Class of 2015) completed his training and is now at Penn State Hershey Med Ctr. Congratulations to Steve in his ongoing role along with Upstate’s Frank Middleton, PhD

Where are they now? – Advocating for Vaccines - Laura Kelley

The Crier recently heard from former resident, Laura Kelley, DO (Class of 2003), who shared some fond memories she had of her training here.

“I've always been so thankful that I did my training at Upstate and that women like you [Dr. Botash] and Vicki Meguid were my mentors. I tell people that advocacy was forged in us as residents at Upstate and, truly, it was one of the most formative parts of my training and has become a guiding tenet in my life.”

Lauren was practicing Pediatrics in Maine for a while but in more recent years has been involved in some advocacy of her own. She told the Crier, “I was on the coalition that helped pass legislation in Maine last year to make us the fourth state to remove all non-medical exemptions for vaccines as a requirement for schools and daycares. We now face a veto campaign by anti-vaxxers and will become the first state to vote on the issue this March. I'm forwarding the testimony I gave in support of LD 798 at the hearing before the legislative committee last March since you said you thought people might be interested in that subject. Feel free to share.” (see attached)

To learn more you can visit the Maine Families for Vaccines PAC website: <https://www.maineamiliesforvaccines.com/>

All’s Wells that Ends Wells

Congratulations to Kim Wells on the end-of-the-year arrival of James Kenneth Wells on 12/29/19. Kim tells the Crier “He was a little early, but has been behaving himself marvelously! His proud big brothers are so happy to have him home for the New Year.”



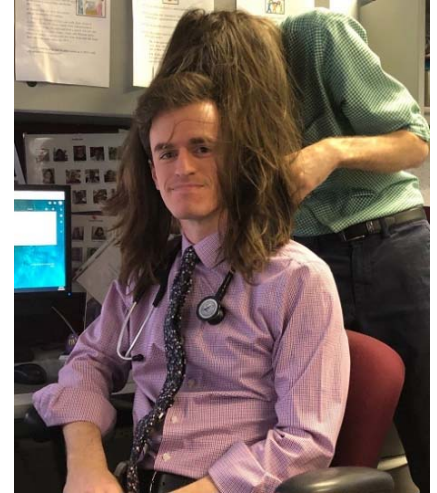
A 2020 Caption Contest

We have a winner for our first Crier Caption Contest of the new year. But it was another close call, so we will start with our two honorable mentions:

Max Burchman:
Me: "How long have you been growing it?"
Dean: "The hair or my conjoined twin?"

Elizabeth Hobson:
"Don't hate me because I'm beautiful."

And the winner is, Matt Mittiga:

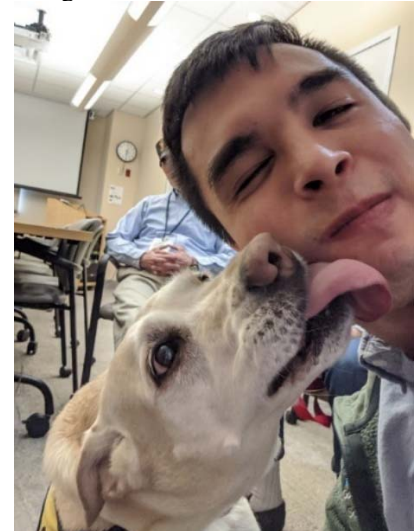


“SUNY Upstate Pediatric researchers say they are close to a breakthrough discovery in understanding the mode of transmission of head lice.”

Dr. Mittiga, please stop by and pick up your prize from the Crier: A complimentary bottle of Nix.

Puppy Love

With Valentine’s Day coming up fast, we thought we should end with a kiss.



Sadie ♥ Scott

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/3 Julia Ciurria
- 2/14 Winter Berry, Steve Blatt
- 2/16 Nara Cho
- 2/18 Leonard Weiner
- 2/21 Kristin Hornick
- 2/22 Kate Okhman

Testimony of Dr. Laura Kelley at the Legislative Hearing in March, 2019 in support of LD 798

In contemplating how best to serve this committee as you seek to inform yourselves on behalf of your constituents, it is a story, not from my own retrospective, but from the annals of Maine history that I bring forward today; because it is essential to stress that the study of medicine does not begin with indoctrination of modern interventions, positions, and policies.

The collective conscience of doctors is informed as much by where we have been, as it is by where we are now so that we may guide others toward renewed awareness and accountability in times like these. Because there is no room for hubris in healthcare - not when other people's lives are at stake.

In 1900, 30% of all deaths in the United States were children less than 5 years old. Please take a moment to imagine what life was like when 1 in 3 deaths in your community, was someone's baby, toddler, preschooler, or kindergartner - and we should remember that there were families who buried more than one of their children and some who buried all of them.

By 1999, that number had changed to 1% of all deaths, thanks to many factors. Number one on the list of greatest public health achievements in the 20th century is Vaccinations.

Of six children (3 boys and 3 girls) born to parents, George and Carrie Chase, in their home on North Street in Skowhegan, Maine, between 1897 and 1912, two of their little sons died before the age of 5 - each from a disease that could be prevented today - one by virtue of public sanitation and the other by vaccination.

When the couple's eldest daughter, Marguerite, was interviewed about her life at ninety years old; she still spoke about the pain her family suffered after losing each of those two little boys. She said that she believed her mother never really got over the grief she felt.

It is very simple for pediatricians to recommend this vaccine policy. The work that we do focusses solely on the health well-being of children, their families, and their communities. It is not a matter of politics or personal agendas for us, it is a matter of science and of conscience.

Marguerite Chase, who you know as Margaret Chase Smith, once made a Declaration of Conscience, herself. Known in the United States Congress as, "The Lady From Maine", she was revered for her courage and her common sense. At a time in our nation's history, when politics and personal agendas had become so polarized and toxic, she was FIRST to speak out against fear and against ignorance. She denounced propaganda and she put her foot down on the FACTS.

Paramount to responsible policy making is adherence to empirical facts. Fallacious arguments, unverifiable emotional tales, unsubstantiated claims, pseudoscience, and all of those who peddle it, cannot form a solid foundation upon which to build a safe community and will never be accountable to those they lead astray.

As a society, we have decided that because we value education, we should gather our children together, beginning when they are very young, to learn and play side by side in schools. Maine parents, trying to provide for their families, rely on daycare facilities to watch over the littlest of their children while they go to work each day.

It is incumbent on policy makers to ensure that those spaces are protected spaces - shielded from becoming reservoirs of highly contagious diseases capable of significant morbidity and mortality. We are not talking about benign illnesses. We are talking about infections that wreak havoc on communities and are capable of killing the most vulnerable among us. The first child I ever intubated in my residency was a 5-week-old who stopped breathing without warning - his diagnosis: Pertussis. And the deadliest disease I ever witnessed in my years of practice was

meningococccemia, the clinical presentation of which in a teenager and a 5-year-old are pictures, embedded in my mind, that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Of the 13 legislators on this committee, 11 of you represent constituents whose children currently attend an elementary school whose vaccine rate is not high enough to prevent an outbreak of measles. As you take a moment to consider which of you can afford not to enact this legislation, let me add that if the human toll does not sway you; consider the financial one, because it is staggering.

This is common sense legislation and it's time to put our foot down on the facts to bring Maine up to date on health policies which prioritize the health and well-being of our entire community. This is not a matter of politics or personal agendas. This is a matter of conscience.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my position on this important bill with you today and I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Laura S. Kelley, D.O.
carveeveryword@gmail.com

*To find out if kindergartners are vaccinated in your district visit:
<https://bangordailynews.com/2019/02/11/mainefocus/see-if-kindergarteners-are-vaccinated-against-measles-at-your-school/>