



Pediatrics Welcomes Kristen Finn

We are excited to be able to welcome the newest addition to Child Life. Kristen introduces herself to us below:
 “Hello! I’m Kristen Finn a board certified and licensed Creative Art Therapist here in my new role at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital. My family and I moved to Syracuse from Brooklyn, NY- with a short stint in Buffalo, NY- for a position on the 7W Adolescent Psychiatry team here at Upstate and am now transitioning to work with the Child Life Specialist team. I have been practicing Art Therapy since 2015 within the field of both inpatient psychiatry and outpatient mental health services. My background is in Costume Design (undergraduate degree), art and teaching in various different areas (special education classroom, English as a second language in Prague, CZ and a preschool teacher). I grew up in a house of creative thinkers and always had a passion for the arts and helping others. When I discovered Art Therapy, I knew this was the path for me as I am continuously blown away by the connection between the mind, body and the process of art making. I really enjoy making and learning new art trades, travelling, discovering new places and hanging out with my kids and husband! You’ll most likely see me rolling to work on my bike! Feel free to stop me on my new bright green art cart and say HI!”



Most Improved!

Congratulations to the entire 12F PICU team for receiving the Q3 Most Improved Press Ganey Patient Experience Award last month! Dr. Wratney responded to this well-deserved honor saying, “I love this photo representation of PICU representing 12F and the team that gathered to heartily embrace this occasion!”



Our interprofessional team takes pride in their care for children and works side-by-side to support one another to do this incredible work...Patient experience is an important part of the definition of “caring intensively” and ranks among some of the most important needs shared by families when they are in stressful situations or feeling uncertainty around the health of their child. You are all experts in this area and I have always been so proud watching you and working with you to deeply show our expertise and care for every patient and their family... when families enter a Press Ganey comment they are indicating a memorable and indelible experience that touched them in a meaningful way to shape their experience positively or negatively. PICU team members consistently receive incredible comments and high team scores.”

Five Years of RSV

In case you happen to notice a lot of residents doing nasal swabs over the next five years, it is not a continuation of any pandemics. Rather, they will be participating in a new study on Respiratory virus surveillance study among pediatric residents led by Drs. Wasik, Suryadevara, Domachowske and, at least for the next few years, Janovicova and El Nakib. It is being done to determine the rate at etiology of respiratory viruses among pediatric healthcare providers. Participants will auto-collect nasal swabs every two weeks and when they have acute URI symptoms. Faculty and residents are all invited to participate. To enroll, email or text Lucia or Clara (or any the faculty named above).



Chief Geneticist



Congratulations to Dr. Joan Pellegrino who has assumed the role of Chief of the Section of Genetics in the Center of Development, Behavior, and Genetics of the

Department of Pediatrics. She succeeds Dr. Robert Roger Lebel as Section Chief. Dr. Lebel remains a genetics faculty member, and plans to do so for many years to come. Dr. Roane and Dr. Conners jointly made the announcement and added, “We thank Dr. Lebel for his many years of service in that role, and Dr. Pellegrino for taking on this important role!”

Interview Season Update

At exactly 160 interviews later, the interview season for the 2022 match is done. The match list goes in this month and we wait for the exciting results on Match Day, March 18th. But before then, we will be hosting a “second look” virtual social hour on Thursday, February 17th to give the applicants one last time to hang out with our residents and ask any last questions they have. Residents who have not already signed up are welcome to do so. This is your last opportunity to influence the incoming Class of 2022!

The January Baby Boom!

We have several new arrivals to report this month!

Welcome Eleanor Rose!

Congratulations to Sarah Hendrix on the arrival of Eleanor Rose on January 6th at 3 lbs; 9 oz. Sarah sent the Crier one of Eleanor’s first pictures.



Welcome Baby Arwen

Congratulations to Dr. Rachel Clarke and her family on the arrival of Baby Arwen. She was born on January 18.



Welcome Luca Michael Toanui

And finally, we welcome Luca Michael Toanui Meneses -Duron who arrived on 1/24, at 6lb10oz. Mom (and dad) are doing great! Congratulations Sophie and Jean!



Art and Science in the GCH

The GCH reported that in January Josh Solomon and his family made a donation to the Children's Hospital of 30 individual art and science educational boxes from KiwiCo! Each box contains materials to explore the world through hands-on projects. He is pictured with Child Life Specialist Sue Karl.



In the News:

Dr. Domachowske was back in the news in January with the following two interviews:

- CNYCentral interviewed Dr. D for the following report: "Number of kids hospitalized with Covid is very high for Syracuse, Golisano doctor says."

<https://cnycentral.com/news/local/number-of-kids-hospitalized-with-covid-is-very-high-for-syracuse-upstate-golisano-doctor-says>

- And NewsChannel 9 reported the following: "Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital physician discusses Covid cases in children under 11".

<https://www.localsyr.com/news/local-news/interview-upstate-golisano-childrens-hospital-doctor-domachowske-discusses-covid-cases-in-children-11-and-under/>

Symphoria for Residents



A huge thanks to Drs. Lebel, Weinberger, and Smith who have generously offered to purchase tickets for residents interested in taking a little break from work for a lovely night out at a Symphoria Concert this year. The first concert was held on January 22nd and seven residents (and their guests) took them up on their generous offer and were treated with Symphoria's Toast of the Town featuring pianist Natasha Paremski performing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and his Second Rhapsody. Abeir (who shared the above picture) told the Crier, "It was so nice and great. I loved it. I would like to thank them personally for the relaxing night!" Her handsome date added, "It was a wonderful night with amazing people. It was an experience that me and Abeer loved so much and will go to our memory book. I have deep admiration for Drs. Lebel, Weinberger and Smith for making this happen."

Andrew Smith gave an especially lovely review of one of the songs: "It was beautiful! In particular, I really connected with a modernly composed piece by a living composer that detailed the emotional journey of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we were directed to, no one clapped after and instead, we sat in silence. It was so powerful reflecting back on the height of the pandemic, when each new day would bring a rising death count, and how much we've battled and persevered through so utter sadness and devastation. It was a reminder that no matter how much in dismay we, our city, or our country might be in, we must continue to fight for each other, always, as life can so easily be taken away." Residents, keep an eye out for announcements of future concerts.

Where are they now? - Utah

Congratulations to Sasidhar (Sashi) Goteti (Class of 2019) who is finishing his fellowship and has accepted a position at the University of Utah in SLC as a Pediatric Hematologist starting in August. Sashi tells the Crier, "We are pretty excited about the move...I was close to accepting a position at Rochester, but the job wasn't exactly what I

was looking for. However, it would've been nice to be back in the Upstate area."

Go Canada (#7)

Little did we know that Holly Stacey is the sister of a world-famous hockey player. Laura Stacey will be competing in her second Olympics on team Canada #7 on Thurs, Feb 17th at 12:10 Beijing time which should be Wed, Feb 16th at 11PM our time. She previously won a silver medal in South Korea. Holly says that this time they really want the gold medal and to beat the US. The final should be Canada vs USA. You will each have to decide for yourself which team you are going to root for.



Virtual Science

Four of our residents have been invited to participate in this year's AMSPDC 2022 Virtual Frontiers in Science (FIS). AMSPDC (Assoc of Med School Peds Dept Chairs) called for nominations and all of the residents Dr. Connors nominated were accepted to the annual conference that will be held on March 3-4. Drs. Ahmed Eltayeb, Laaibah Ejaz, Simi George, and Akilah Evans will all be attending. Maybe one of them will even send a follow up report to the Crier.

Exceptional Teacher!



Congratulations to Dr. Ian Dargon who was the recipient of the January 2022 Recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching Award by the Medical School. See attached for just a sampling of some of the precious comments students submitted about him.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/3 Abeir Mohamed
2/4 Andrew Smith
2/7 Clara El Nakib
2/10 Saber Jan
2/14 Winter Berry, Steve Blatt
2/18 Leonard Weiner
2/22 Kate Okhman
2/23 Aly Soliman

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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EXCEPTIONAL MOMENTS

IN TEACHING



Ian Dargon, MD, is assistant professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at Upstate Medical University and the **January 2022** Recipient of the **Exceptional Moments in Teaching Recognition**.

COMMENTS FROM DR. DARGON'S STUDENTS:

"The most incredible teacher I have ever had and probably the smartest person I have met. Dr. Dargon was always was exceptionally respectful to students presenting, even though he clearly knew all of the information. He made sure to teach with every single patient, and did not make you feel inadequate or dumb if you didn't know the answer or didn't understand. He took the time to show me how to change a diaper when I had said that I hadn't changed one. I was amazed an attending would spend their time helping me in that way. Really just an exceptional teacher and fantastic role model."

"During my clerkship, I had an unfortunate encounter with a patient's family member in which they said harmful things regarding my race. Dr. Dargon checked in on me before and after this occurred, and he also said that I didn't need to go back into that patient's room. He made it clear to all students that he would not tolerate abuse towards any of us. Dr. Dargon made me feel safe and alleviated my anxieties regarding the work environment many of us third-year medical students fear."

The College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly "Exceptional Moments in Teaching" program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships. Recognized teachers—including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators—are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.