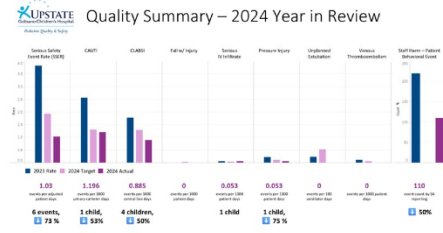




**SUPER HIGH QI**

It turns out that 2024 was a great year for safety in the Children's Hospital! Dr. Osten shared the inside scoop: "In 2024, Golisano Children's Hospital achieved significant safety milestones, including a 73% reduction in serious preventable harm events and zero falls with injury, unplanned extubations, or non-CVC related venous thromboembolisms. The hospital also celebrated 301 days without CLABSI and saw a 50% decrease in staff harm events. Moving forward, the focus for 2025 will be on maintaining these improvements and proactively preventing future safety events."

This was a graphic demonstration of just what a good year we had.



The Crier would like to quote Dr. Wratney's response to the report: "What a stellar quality report! Let's keep up all the great work! Your attention to safety principles, good catches, offering how to circumvent or fix issues, and to just getting better every day is every bit the reason why we continue to improve!" Congratulations, GCH!

**AMSPDC Frontiers**

Congratulations to Ali Ba Sahel and Ahmed Souid who were both nominated to attend the 2025 Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs, Inc. (AMSPDC) Frontiers in Science (FIS) Symposium in San Diego. Should they choose to accept, they will be guests of Dr. Conners.

**CHOP Cardio Conference**

We have not just one, but two residents who had their abstracts accepted at the upcoming Pediatric Cardiology Conference at CHOP. Congratulations to Fatima Raza who had two abstracts accepted, and Karishma Desai, whose abstract "A case of anomalous left coronary artery from the pulmonary artery

(ALCAPA) in a well appearing 5-month-old" was accepted as a poster presentation.

**Go West, Young Man!**

Last month we shared the very impressive list of fellowships that our residents matched in. But the rest of the class has also been busy making post-graduate plans. Congratulations to David Cea-Flores who will be heading to California. He has accepted a position with the Serra Medical Group in Sun Valley, CA. The Crier asked David if it was anywhere near the wildfires and he said, "Unfortunately yes, it's in LA not too far away from the fires. The clinic itself is okay but definitely a lot of those upscale neighborhoods you've been hearing about were affected. Hopefully things cool down with time!" We are excited for David and glad to hear he will be able to take care of some of the kids who went through such a difficult time!

**Interview Stats**

The interviews are now over, and our match list is well under way! By the end of the season, we had received almost 1400 applications, and thanks to all of the residents and faculty who participated in interviews and social hours, we were able to interview 191 candidates for our 15 intern spots (this will be the Class of 2028!). While interviews are over, we have two upcoming virtual "second look" social hours in February (a URiM event on February 13<sup>th</sup>, and a social hour for all applicants on February 27<sup>th</sup>). And then we sit back and wait for the results of another great match in March! A huge thanks to Dr. Holly Chebaya for overseeing the whole interview process again this year!

**Doc Walking**

Our very own Dr. Greg Conners was the official Doc at Upstate's Walk with a Doc event on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the indoor track of the Baldwinsville YMCA. He provided an update on happenings at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital before leading participants on a walk where everyone could choose their own pace and distance.



Dr. Conners told the Crier that he enjoyed the event and "Got to talk about UCGH, the great things we do, and our wonderful colleagues!"

**Krunching for the Kids**

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Syracuse Crunch held an Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital Night when the team hosted the Rochester Americans. As part of the night, Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital had a table on the concourse with an appearance by Hero the Wolf. GCH Hospital Administrator Kali Kearns was invited to drop the ceremonial first puck.



She was cheered on by her delighted fan club.



Proceeds from the team's GiveSmart auctions were given to the GCH.

## In The News

### Syracuse's Accessible Creekwalk

Our very own Nienka Dosa was mentioned in an article lauding Syracuse as one of the most progressive cities in the U.S. for incorporating the ideas of users with disabilities when creating new handicapped-accessible spaces. The article, entitled, "Faculty, Students, City and Community Advocates Form Unique Accessibility Collaboration" describes the very impressive Creekwalk Project that has focused on being accessible and inclusive to all. Dr. Dosa is on the team working to make this vision a reality. You can read the full story at the following Syracuse University link:

<https://news.syr.edu/blog/2025/01/14/faculty-students-city-and-community-advocates-form-unique-accessibility-collaboration/>

### Game Changer

Upstate Online reported that Upstate's participation in national clinical trial has brought groundbreaking treatment to our pediatric cancer patients. The article is written specifically about patient Matilda Loomis, who is one of 25 Upstate patients participating in a global study by the Children's Oncology Group. The study found that the three-year disease-free rate was 96 percent for high-risk patients treated with chemotherapy plus Blinatumomab, compared to 87.9% for those treated with only chemotherapy. The article quoted Dr. Comito who noted that she has been treating pediatric cancer for 30 years and can't think of another study that showed such a substantial improvement. "They thought this study could be a game changer one day and it is. This will impact how we treat children with ALL going forward. We want to cure every child with the least amount of side effects. We want every child to look in the mirror as they grow up and nobody will ever know they were treated for cancer."

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2025/2/024-01-08-matilda.php>



### EarliPoint for Special Needs

Upstate Online also did a special report on the new tool being used by our Center for Special Needs called EarliPoint™ Evaluation, used with children between 16 and 30 months of age to aid in the diagnosis and assessment of autism. The new device does so in a fraction of the time it takes to assess a child without using the device. Dr. Roane said Upstate was eager to add EarliPoint to its repertoire of innovative diagnostic tools because it can do in under 20 minutes what it takes a team of clinicians several hours to do in determining an autism diagnosis. Wendy Miles, who is a clinical leader at the Golisano center, said "The majority of the children we have worked with so far seem to be interested in at least some of the videos allowing for EarliPoint to gather data and provide diagnostic information. It is fun to watch the reaction of the kids as well as the parents during the administration." She noted that 10 children have been screened so far, with the administration of the device successful seven times. Of the seven, five of the children were determined to have autism and the outcomes of all seven successful administrations correlated with the diagnostic team's expert clinical diagnosis.



### The CNY Spike

Dr. Jana Shaw was back in the news speaking with WAER about a spike in respiratory illness in CNY. She stated, "It does put strain on the hospital because as you can imagine, we are full. Moving beds and moving patients can be challenging because we want to make sure that everybody is taken care of and everybody is safe." You can read the full article at:

<https://www.wrvo.org/2025-01-21/doctors-urge-caution-amid-spike-in-respiratory-illnesses-in-cny>

### Parade of Heroes

In case you missed it, dozens of local law enforcement and EMS agencies participated in the Parade of Heroes in December to help spread holiday cheer to the patients and staff at the GCH. After arriving in their vehicles with flashing lights, the group waved to patients looking out from the windows and then served up a holiday meal for patients and

families. The event was the second annual parade sponsored by Upstate University Police.



### Burger King for Kids

Burger Kings throughout Central New York will hold their annual Valentine campaign to benefit the GCH. If you visit any BK from now through Feb. 14, you can purchase a Valentine sheet for a \$1 donation (which all goes to the GCH) and get \$6 worth of coupons for free BK stuff in return. Coupons may be used from Feb. 14 to March 31.



### In Fond Memory

Dr. Leonard Levy, a retired colleague of our department, passed away on 1/8/25. He was in private practice in Syracuse and Fayetteville up to 2013. He was also the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Community General Hospital, and a Clinical Associate Professor, in the Department of Pediatrics here at Upstate. <https://obits.syracuse.com/us/obituaries/syracuse/name/leonard-levy-obituary?id=57223312>

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/14 Winter Berry, Steve Blatt  
2/18 Leonard Weiner  
2/22 Khulood Shkookani, Kate Okhman  
2/27 Abimbola Olufayo-Aluko