



Welcome Back, Dr. Justinich



The Dept of Pediatrics welcomes Chris Justinich MD (Pronounced “Youstin-ich”) who joined the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology in April 2022. If he looks slightly familiar to anyone, it might be because he was

here as a locum to help in Peds GI from 2007-09. Dr. Justinich comes to us with over 30 years of pediatric GI experience with an interest in food allergic disorders of the GI tract and eosinophilic esophagitis. He is a Canadian from Ottawa, with a medical degree from Queens University, Pediatrics Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa. He did his GI Fellowship at University of Montreal Ste Justine Hospital. He also completed a Master’s degree in Healthcare Quality in 2018. He has worked at CCMC in Hartford CT, then a brief stay at duPont Hospital for Children in Delaware before returning to Queen’s in Kingston for 13 years. He helped with GI coverage at Upstate for 3 years around the building of the new Golisano Children’s Hospital. He then traveled to University of Arizona in Tucson where he worked for for almost six years but decided to return back to the Northeast and is very happy to join the GI group at Upstate. Dr Justinich enjoys teaching, travelling, hiking, cycling, hockey, snowboarding and Nordic skiing with wife Denise and spending time with 2 adult children Shauna and John.

Annual Housestaff Appreciation

The Annual Housestaff Appreciation and Graduation Dinner was held on Wednesday, June 15th at the Downtown Marriott. It as a night of awards, special honors, recognition and, of course, the certificates of completion given to each of our 15 graduating third year residents. Almost all of the residents were there, along with program directors and those presenting awards. Others in the department were able to join in by live stream.

The awards that were given out included:

ED’s Rooky of the Year Award:
Lexi Sirota

Robert K. Kanter Award:
Holly Stacey

The Compassionate Care Award:
Laura Mejia-Connolly
Alex Ramirez

GME Professionalism Award:
Holly Stacey

Global Health in Pediatrics Award:
Sophie Duron

Pediatric Nursing Award:
Lauren Mitchell

Pediatric Faculty Award:
Dr. Jennifer Zuccaro

Special Appreciation Award:
Dr. Joshua Bonville

Pediatric Housestaff Teaching Awards:
PL1: 1st – Akilah Evans, 2nd – Kaitlyn Kennedy, 3rd – Lexi Sirota
PL2: 1st – Rida Sherwani, 2nd -William Hall, 3rd – Dayna Ukwuoma
PL3: 1st - Sophie Duron. 2nd – Holly Stacey, 3rd – Jean Meneses

Each of the third year residents then came forward to receive their certificate, tell where they are going after graduation, and express their thanks and appreciation.



We are so proud of all our graduates and wish them the very best.

A special thanks to all of the attendings who covered so the residents could be freed up to be at the dinner. Thank you to Drs. Myszewski, Andrade, Clarke, Cherrick, Rivera, Hansen, Schurman, and O’Malley. You’re all the best!

The GME Research Award

Congratulations to our Peds ID fellow, Dr. Danielle Daniels who won the GME Research Award. She was nominated by Dr. Leonard Weiner. She was honored at the annual GME awards ceremony on May 25th.

Kenya 2022

After a nearly two-year Covid Sabbatical, the first group of residents got to travel to Kenya with Dr. Andrea Shaw for a short rotation in Global Health. Sophie Duron, Jean Meneses, and Ruby Sangha spent two weeks caring for patients, teaching students, and learning more about Health Care at the Obama Children’s Hospital. There are already two trips planned for 2022-2023.



PL3 Retreat

On June 11-12, just days before receiving their certificates, the PL3s got together one last time for an overnight retreat by the lake. We wish the class of 2022 the very best!



The Interns Are Here!

By the time you read this, the 15 interns will have completed their week of orientation and are hours away from starting their first year of training on July

1st. They are a great class and we all look forward to working with them!



National ACLP Conference

We received the following news flash from our Child Life Manager, Gina Lozito-Yorton: "I am so proud that two of my staff members presented at our National ACLP conference last week." Congratulations to Allison Della Penna and Kendall Malkin on this national honor!



The Supreme Scavengers

Of course no intern orientation would be complete without the annual new intern scavenger hunt. We had five teams with five brave leaders who were up for the challenge (more or less – a few under duress). But in the end, it was Team Hall that made it over the finish line and claimed the prize (and perhaps the most drama). Congratulations to Billy Hall, Michael Kennedy-Yoon, Michael Markel, Precious Sanni-Adeniyi, and Deepa Thomas for getting the most points and the most...unique (if not scary) pictures.



After the scavenger hunt, everyone consoled themselves with a picnic at Jamesville Beach for interns, residents and advisors.



GCH Peds Unit Gets a New Name

Upstate Online announced that the 12th floor Peds and Adolescent Unit is now named the Frieda, Morris and Marilyn Miller Pediatric & Adolescent Unit thanks to a generous gift of \$600,000 from the estate of Marilyn C. Miller, in her memory, as well as that of her parents. Marilyn devoted her entire career to children as a teacher in the Syracuse City School District.

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/02-06-09-miller.php>

Just Married!

Congratulations to our soon-to-be chief, Holly Stacey, who got married to Phil Chebaya in May. Holly tells the Crier, "It was a whirlwind. Went by too fast. Amazing and beautiful and perfect! We did a church wedding on the Thursday (intimate group) and then a romantic ceremony and reception on the Saturday (180 people)!"



Photo Caption Contest Winners

Last month, the Crier shared the picture below and was looking for a good caption. We received several. Here are our honorable mentions:

"Did you say we should share the last bagel? I don't think so!" – Dr. Wratney

"Due to departmental budget cuts, no clothing or cream cheese are possible right now." – Dr. Thabet

"It's a good thing I didn't go into Surgery" – Dr. Joan Pellegrino



And the winner is:

"'Never mind a pea' said the Prince, 'look what was under my mattress!'" – Dr. Gloria Kennedy

Dr. Kennedy please stop by the Crier office to pick up your prize!

Family Med Grads

We thought the Peds Dept might be interested in knowing that the first class of FM residents have graduated from the new Upstate FM residency program. Several of you played a role in their success since you would have worked with them on their Peds rotations. It is a great reminder that you are helping prepare the next generation of FM physicians, many who will be staying in our area (and possibly being our own PCPs). Upstate Online has the full story: <https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/2022-06-15-fmres.php>

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7/2 Colleen Feeny
- 7/3 Anjali Sura, Mohammed Doklajjah
- 7/6 Robin Jodoin
- 7/8 Mohamed Khallaf
- 7/9 David Cea-Flores
- 7/10 Shannen Eichler
- 7/14 Adil, Siddiqui, Karen Teelin
- 7/15 Andrew Brooks
- 7/16 Danielle Daniels
- 7/20 Jana Shaw
- 7/23 Travis Hobart, Chris Kuehnle
- 7/24 Simi George
- 7/31 Lauren Waichenberg