



# Pediatric Crier

## Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

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

### Special Superhero Edition, Con't



#### Operation Thanks from Above

On Sat. May 16 the National Warplane Museum sent three of its WWII airplanes on a thank you flight that went across much of New York State including all of the hospitals in Central New York. The planes (from the 1940s) did several circles around Syracuse before continuing their mission to thank the health care workers at war against Covid-19. Reporting live from Upstate Community Hospital, the Crier editor and her husband were onsite at the time of the flyby.



Here is the movie version:

<https://twitter.com/BobMondore/status/1261781504130191366>

#### Car Hearts (Heroes honoring heroes)



Local police formed a heart with their patrol cars on the roof of the Upstate Garage on National Nurse's Day (May 6). <https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2020/2020-05-07-heartlove.php>

#### Taking Peds Ethics Education Online

*Dr. Amy Brown*

Editor's Note: When our entire conference schedule got shut down in March, Dr. Brown was the first to offer the residents her weekly conferences online. The Crier is pleased to share the rest of the story:

When the announcement came that face-to-face classes were suspended, the course I direct for the first-year medical students still had eight sessions remained, including some of my favorite discussions of pediatric cases, like one involving = overweight toddler whose mother continues to give him a bottle throughout the night to keep him quiet and avoid being evicted. [1] We had little choice but to switch—all 23 faculty members, including eight from the Department of Pediatrics, and 170 students—to small group discussions via Zoom.

Although the discussion was sometimes a bit stilted—a 3-second lag makes for awkward conversation—and frequently interrupted by our own children, it was also better than we'd hoped. Everyone showed up. If they didn't bother to put pants on, we didn't notice. So when our annual pediatric ethics workshop was cancelled, it made sense to propose an online alternative.

On March 26, we held our first in a series of one-hour weekly pediatric ethics conferences that continued until May 14, when we moved to monthly meetings. In addition to more than twenty residents and a handful of medical students on elective rotations who attended each week, several faculty also became regulars, including Bob Lebel, David Hansen, Ann Botash, Karen Teelin and Beth Nelsen from Pediatrics; Rebecca Garden from Public Health and Preventive Medicine; and Deirdre Neilen from Bioethics and Humanities.

For the first 6 weeks, we focused on discussions related to the COVID-19 pandemic: rationing and resource allocation, the duty to care (especially in relation to PPE shortages), balancing the benefits and burdens of social distancing, and health disparities in crises. We talked about the issues facing our community and the residents shared their experiences in the clinic

and hospital. For the last 3 sessions, we turned to a case-based format. Residents were sent a short case and questions to consider before the online discussion. Topics covered included the limits of shared decision making, quality of life at the end of life, and disclosure of medical error.

Our last two sessions will take place on June 4 (conscientious objection, particularly in training) and July 1 (requests for non-disclosure of diagnosis or prognosis), and then the residents will resume their regular summer schedule. In place of our meetings, we plan to start a pediatric ethics podcast series specifically aimed at students, residents and other health professions trainees.. In the spring, we will hold a 2-hour workshop for residents to share their own cases and read excerpts from short stories and essays together.

Are you a pediatric resident interested in ethics? Email Dr. Caruso Brown ([brownamy@upstate.edu](mailto:brownamy@upstate.edu)) ways you can get involved with the upcoming podcast series and other projects.

If you missed our discussions of pandemic ethics: Harvard Medical School has a module online that provides a great introduction to the key issues.

You can access it at:

<https://curriculum.covidstudentresponse.org/module-8-medical-ethics>

Have an ethical question about a patient or clinical situation? The Clinical Ethics Consultation Service is on call 7 days a week. Look in Amion under Bioethics & Humanities. Or email Dr. Caruso Brown.

[1] Mutrie LH, Goode JH. You Don't Understand: He Needs That Bottle. In: Caruso Brown AE, Hobart TR, Morrow CB, eds. Bioethics, Public Health, and the Social Sciences for the Medical Professions. 2019 (pp. 429-449). Springer, Cham. Adapted from: Klass P. Saving Tiny Tim—pediatrics and childhood poverty in the United States. *N Engl J Med.* 2016;374(23):2201-5.

### More Exceptional Teachers

In our May issue, Dr. Nead named several of our faculty who received the Dean's Exceptional Teacher award based on comments given by clerkship students. This month we would like to recognize several additional faculty and residents who also received recognition as exceptional teachers through feedback given by some of the MS1's and MS2's. Thank you to Dr. Conners for passing this info along. Congratulations to Drs. Brett Holdaway; John Friedman; Josh Bonville; Paula Farrell and Dr. Dudycz-Sulicz from Binghamtom campus; Drs. Chris DeLaney (PCP), Sue Stred, Frank Smith, and Stuart Trust.

Each recipient received a letter from the Dean that included some of the comments their office received from students. One was particularly heartwarming and Dr. Trust has given us permission to share it: "In so many of my classes I have been told how we have to fight our biases as we enter the healthcare field. I was amazed by Dr. Trust's vulnerability and openness to share a story with us where, as a resident, he was faced with a situation that he let a bias get the best of him. I was in awe that Dr. Trust was humble enough to show us that there will be times that we mess up, but we need to own up to it. I was touched by the story as I could see that Dr. Trust did not become defensive, but felt bad that that patient did not receive the best care. I could see how much passion, care, and respect, Dr. Trust had toward his patients by the way he spoke of them and I want more than anything emulate that in my future practice. He also went above and beyond to teach us in FRM and make sure we are equipped with the thinking skills we need to tackle 3rd year and the future. Thank you for being such an amazing professor and person Dr. Trust!"

Congratulations to all of the faculty and residents who have been recognized for your excellence in teaching.

### Peds In The News:

The mysterious Covid illness in kids - Dr. Jana Shaw

<https://cnycentral.com/news/local/15-children-hospitalized-in-nyc-with-mysterious-illness-similar-to-kawasaki-disease>

The likelihood of spreading coronavirus while enjoying the outdoors (featuring Dr. Jana Shaw)

<https://cnycentral.com/news/local/upstate-doctor-on-the-likelihood-of-spreading-coronavirus-while-enjoying-the-outdoors>

A Bad Decline: Child Abuse in a Pandemic (featuring Dr. Alicia Pekarsky)

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/inghamton/coronavirus/2020/05/12/child-abuse-reports-drop-across-new-york-during-pandemic>

### Cora's Birthday

Our roving photographers are now back on duty this month so we are pleased to share a picture of Cora Maierhofer celebrating her second birthday in April!



### The May Caption Contest Winner



We have a tie for winners this month. First, Kaption King Mittiga does it again with "Do you think anyone will be able to taste the Ex-lax I put in these?"

And it seems only logical that Dr. Goodie-stalking-Nimeh should share the honor with his caption, "Social distancing will NEVER happen with these!!!!"

Congratulations to Matt Mittiga, and to Joe Nimeh for the best caption and for hopefully having gotten one (or more) of the treats.

### June events -

#### Virtual Graduation – June 17<sup>th</sup>

Yes, there will be a fabulous graduation celebration on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. We will be honoring our PL3s and also announcing several other awards and honors for our residents. As we go to print, it is looking like the event will be streaming live from the Kinney Center but all the details will be coming shortly.

### Out of his Chair

The editor spotted a familiar looking couple (and friend) in a rare appearance outside of the office enjoying a beautiful Sunday hike at Green Lakes.



### Meanwhile, back at the office...



A typical day in the life of a resident (or two). Thank you, Dr. Ajagbe the picture.

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/2 Laura Mejia-Connolly  
6/6 Veena Gopalakrishnan  
6/11 Joan Pellegrino  
6/16 Sarah Ellis  
6/21 Scott Schurman, Joe Nimeh  
6/23 Neal Seidberg  
6/24 Prateek Wali  
6/25 Sarah Baluta  
6/27 Maria Liverpool  
6/29 Tracy Gilgallon  
6/30 Bill Hannan