



**It's Official!**



Congratulations to Dr. Angela Wratney who was officially named as Director, Division of Critical Care and Medical Director of the PICU on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Department received the following announcement from Dr. Conners:

“It is a pleasure to announce the appointment of Angela Tardif Wratney, MD, MHSc as Director, Division of Critical Care in the Department of Pediatrics, and Medical Director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Dr. Wratney is Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, and has served as Interim Division Director since October, 2019. Dr. Wratney is also Director of Interprofessional Education for the Upstate School of Medicine. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Wratney on her appointment to this important position! Gregory P. Conners, MD, MPH, MBA”

**Coming Soon to a PICU Near You**

Next month, the PICU will be welcoming two new faculty members. Dr. Rachel Clarke and Dr. Sarah Harding will be joining us in July 2021, both graduates of the University of Michigan PICU Fellowship!



The Crier is hoping to introduce both Dr. Clarke and Dr. Harding to you in the coming months.

**The GME Teamwork Award**

For the second year in a row, Pediatrics has won the GME teamwork award for one of our Peds residents! Congratulations to Laura Mejia-Connolly who received this official statement from Dean Danielle Katz: “You have been selected to receive the GME Resident Award for Teamwork. You were nominated by a number of your colleagues who highlighted your helpfulness, consideration and selflessness. It was noted that you always are willing to help cover your co-residents and that you demonstrate an admirable work ethic and exceptional teamwork... you will be receiving a plaque in honor of this award, and your name will be placed on the plaque by the GME Office. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!!!” We all echo Dr. Katz, Laura, including all of your classmates who voted for you!



**PL2 Weekend Retreat**

In lieu of a formal retreat this year, the PL2s were all given a call free weekend on May 8-9 and were able to enjoy some time off on their own. They enjoyed a lovely day and even went on a wine tour together. Pictured is one of the wineries in Naples (NY). And, yes, they did rent a “party” bus and had a designated driver.



Reena tells the Crier they were all extremely appreciative of the time off (and also to the chiefs who helped arrange all the coverage).

**Exceptional Teacher**



Congratulations to former resident Brian Tran who was the recipient of the May Exceptional Teacher award from the Medical School. Since

graduating, Brian has been working at River Pediatrics in Fulton. The College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly “Exceptional Moments in Teaching Program” based on student assessments from courses and clerkships.

**Homeless Youth Shelter Update**

The Rescue Mission’s new Homeless & Runaway Youth Shelter is now scheduled to open in October. Several of the Peds residents, staff and faculty have helped to make this a reality. We hope to continue Team Upstate’s 2021 Your Cause commitment to the project with an online pantry and hygiene drive to stock their shelves in June. Stay tuned for details about how you can help. In the meantime, here are some updated pictures of the shelter.



## Saying Goodbye

“To my dear pediatrics colleagues, As some of you may have heard, I have made the decision to take a new job away from Upstate starting this fall. I started my career here over 20 years ago as a medical student and completed my pediatrics residency and chief residency in 2008. After a 2-year academic pediatrics fellowship in Tampa, I took my job as a faculty member here in 2010. So, my roots here run very deep and it was not a casual decision for me to leave. There are some excellent opportunities for me at my new job, but I will dearly miss many aspects of my work here at Upstate including my regular interactions with the incredible faculty and staff that make up our pediatrics department.

My new position is with ConnexCare which has offices in a number of the small towns north of Syracuse, and I will be working out of their Oswego location. They are a federally qualified health center, and fortunately I will continue to have the opportunity to work with a traditionally underserved population (this time rural rather than urban). I will also be integrated into some of the school-based health centers under their purview, and this has been an interest of mine for quite some time.

Most importantly, however, these changes will allow me to spend more quality time with my young family. As generations of people have said, kids grow up really fast. Thomas (9) and Dorothy (7) are certainly no exception!!! This change will enable me to be home more often and will hopefully allow me to focus on them more entirely when I am there.



It cannot be overstated how much I will miss my work family – the entire faculty and staff of the pediatrics department at Upstate. I’ve forged friendships with many of you that will, fortunately, last a lifetime and I’ve had the great privilege to learn from some of the most esteemed pediatricians in the country. I’m sure that I’ll be reaching out to many of you in consultation, and on a more personal level my door is always open to any of you. I hope to see you at meetings, conferences, community events, or in my backyard for

dinner, a dip in the pool, and a campfire. You are always welcome!! In the meantime, I’ll look forward to collaboration and conversations together until I conclude my work here at the end of July. My very best regards to all of you, Joe”

## Another Goodbye

We were sad to learn that in addition to saying goodbye to longtime student/resident/chief/faculty member, Joe Nimeh, Dr. Nate Meuser-Herr will also be leaving us next month. Dr. Meuser-Herr shares the following: “To all of my pediatric colleagues, thank you for your support in my early academic career that’s been foundational just as obtaining my medical degree here was 10 years ago. I will be leaving Upstate in July and taking an academic position in the “North Country” with the UVM Dept of Pediatrics Hospitalist Division at one of their rural network hospitals in Plattsburgh (the northeast-most part of the state, 30-min from Canada on the shore of Lake Champlain.) With my family up north, my Canadian-American wife and in-laws, and academic interests in rural and newborn medicine, you can see how the opportunity fit us well. I look forward to continuing the mission of medical education for the region’s rural learners and collaborating in whatever ways are possible!” We wish both Joe and Nate the very best!

## Cream, Sugar, Electric Drill?

Doesn’t everyone love a good mystery? If you stopped by the 5<sup>th</sup> floor offices for a cup of coffee after the recent temporary move you might have noticed that your options would have included cream, sugar, and an electric drill. The drill magically appeared there one day and several of us attempted to return it to the construction crew but were repeatedly told it did not belong to them. They suggested it must belong to one of us. We assured them that most of us don’t bring our electric drills to work and even if we did, we probably wouldn’t serve it with coffee.



The drill remained at the coffee station for several weeks before it was donated to the non-profit organization Tiny Houses where it will be put to good use (probably not as a coffee stirrer). For its short stay in the department, we were able to grab this picture. Anyone with a good caption can win a free cup of coffee.

## June Dates to Remember:

**The Annual Housestaff Appreciation Dinner** - June 16<sup>th</sup>. Join the Celebration Live Stream at: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/visual-technologies>

**Intern Orientation** (6/24-30) will include the virtual Meet the New intern luncheon on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon

## Scavengers Update

Thanks to all the residents who accepted the challenge to lead an intern team on to victory on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. If anyone else wants to join (especially if you can drive), let us know. Dinner will be provided! Note that Dr. Gloria Kennedy will be creating the challenge again this year so it’s going to be a lot of fun! (Faculty, better hide your stuff).

## Here Comes the Brides

We will probably need to put out a special bridal edition of the Crier at some point. In the intern class alone, we had four May/June weddings and one engagement. In fact, here is a picture of Sarah Sloan’s engagement party. Hopefully the wedding pictures will start arriving in time for the July issue! We wish all our new couples the best!



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/2 Laura Mejia-Connolly  
6/4 Andrea Shaw  
6/6 Veena Gopalakrishnan, Dayna Ukwuoma  
6/10 Zafer Sultun  
6/11 Joan Pellegrino  
6/19 Asmita Sharma  
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