



# Pediatric Crier

## Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

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

### The Crier/Connors Interview



The Crier was very excited to have an exclusive one-on-one interview with our new Chairman, Gregory P. Connors, MD, MPH, MBA, FAAP, FACEP

Crier: Thank you for your willingness to do your first Crier interview for us. We have all read your impressive bio so there really is no need to ask you to repeat all of that. We are guessing it is partly because of family that you decided to come back to Central New York. But as far as Upstate in particular, what are you most excited about in your role as chair?

GC: I “discovered” the Crier when I interviewed for the position, and I admired its style. Thank you for the opportunity to be included!

You’re right, I do have quite a few family members and friends in the region, so that was a major draw for me. Beyond that, I felt like there was a good fit between what I think I have the most to offer as a chair and what would most help the Department of Pediatrics and Golisano Children’s Hospital. For example, I have experience with helping strong clinicians use their clinical interest and expertise to generate scholarship. I have tried hard to become a versatile Pediatrics leader, which should also help. I appreciate the Upstate culture, which includes valuing excellence in patient care, and comes from everyone: the physicians, nurses, other clinical professionals, and administrative staff. I love that part of Upstate Medical University’s history includes being the successor to Geneva Medical College, where Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States. The chairs of other Upstate Departments have been helpful and encouraging. Finally, it is a privilege to succeed Dr. Welch, and now Dr. Botash, who have worked hard at leading the Department of Pediatrics and the Children’s Hospital, and have helped make my transition as smooth as possible.

Crier: Will you be spending any time in the Peds ED?

GC: Yes! Attending in the Peds ED is an important part of my professional identity, and a great way to get a sense of the entire Children’s Hospital. I need to iron out the details with Dr. Cantor, whom I have known a long time as an important figure in Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

Crier: Your wife is an RN. Will she be doing anything here at Upstate?

GC: Jan has many years of experience as a pediatric nurse, especially as a NICU nurse manager; in fact, that is where we met! She has been focused on raising our kids since our triplets were born. Now that they are in college, she may find herself back in the pediatric world!

Crier: Are any of the four kids considering becoming doctors or nurses?

GC: Libby has been working in hospital informatics, while the others seem headed in other directions – but you never know!

Crier: Do you have any outside interests or hobbies you will be able to enjoy now that you are back in New York?

GC: My biggest outside hobby is running, including 5-10 K races, and I plan to continue that. I am especially looking forward to participating in (notice I did not say winning!) races that support pediatric care, like Paige’s Butterfly Run. I am also looking forward to spending more time with family on Canandaigua Lake.

Crier: Since the Crier has a special interest in the Pediatric residents, is there anything in particular you would like to say specifically to them?

GC: I got to meet with a few Pediatrics residents during my interview process; they represented the program well! I consider the Pediatrics residency to be part of the “glue” that binds the Pediatrics Department together, so having a strong program is a priority for me. Many of our residents will remain

members of the local Pediatrics community for years to come. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the residents, both through leadership and in the clinical setting, as well as the residency program leadership and staff.

### With Appreciation



As we welcome Dr. Connors to our Peds Family, we would also like to take a moment to recognize the wonderful job our very own Dr. Ann

Botash did as our interim chair. Dr. Lucinio stated it very well: “I would like to express my immense gratitude to Dr. Ann Botash, our Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development, who did “double duty” and has also served as Interim Chair of Pediatrics since May 2018...Dr. Botash has shown tremendous dedication and commitment to the Pediatrics Department and we are all particularly grateful to her.” Dr. Botash was honored at a surprise reception after Grand Rounds on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.

### The MidWinter Dinner/Dance

Despite the wild and wooly weather, the annual MidWinter party, held on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at The Preserve, was a huge success. A great time was most definitely had by all who were willing to brave the weather to get there. Thanks to all the faculty who helped to make this possible through your sponsorship! And thanks to the Associate Chiefs who worked so hard to plan such a lovely evening!



## The New Faculty Introduction Party

The Department of Pediatrics held its 2018 new faculty party on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology (MOST). Faculty and staff, families and kids all enjoyed an evening of great food and family fun. Eight new faculty were honored including Drs. David Hansen (Peds Endo), Elizabeth Hobson (Outpt), Nayla Khoury (Child Psych), Jessica Majeski (Heme/Onc), Chris Prendergast (Peds Card), Ajay Rana (Peds GI), William Sullivan (Psych), Angela Wratney (Ped Critical Care), and Nusrat Zaman (Hosp/Palliative).

Four additional new faculty were not able to attend the event:

JP Ervoes (hospitalist), Emily Langan (Peds Neuro), Jennifer Myszkewski (Hosp), and Lauren Tague (Peds Card). A warm welcome, again, to this entire impressive list of new faculty.



Thanks to Dr. Botash for pix!

## PRACTICE Makes Perfect

*Dr. Beth Nelsen*

This month has been a great month for the PRACTICE team. We have had three additional abstracts accepted for poster presentations: Kim Wells and Elizabeth Paulsen along with JP Ervoes and Mide Ajagbe for their project on teaching residents to mitigate prejudice was accepted at APPD's spring meeting; Samara Appelstein and Josh Griesman along with JP Ervoes and Jen Nead for their project on teaching students to call consultants was accepted at PAS; and Kristin Hornick's project on improving Vocera use was accepted at the local Beyond the Doctorate Research Day. We continue to work on all of these projects along with a few new ones. We will be gearing up for

I-PASS orientation in June - we will know who are new interns are in just a couple of weeks!

## Critical Care Residents

Not one, not two, but three of our residents presented abstracts at the SCCM conference in San Diego in February.

Jacob Anderson, Ripal Patel, and Elizabeth Paulsen presented "Pneumococcal Meningitis in a Vaccinated Child" and Ripal Patel and Jacob Anderson presented "Team Member Satisfaction Regarding Pediatric Transport Bedside Handoff." We are very proud of the three of them! Congratulations!



## Resident Appreciation

Hospital-wide resident appreciation day was February 19<sup>th</sup>. However, the Peds Dept decided to make a whole week out of it. One of everyone's favorite events was having Child Life open up the Multi-Sensory room for them for their Wellness Wednesday. As you can see, Sashi and Audrey in particular seemed very appreciative.



## Fun February

Dr. Nelsen's Second Annual Fun February is coming to its exciting conclusion even as we go to print. There were four separate contests, each a week long. At the end of each week everyone got to vote for the best entry and the winner received a Cafe Kubal gift card. This year there is also a Grand Prize (winner yet to be announced). Each of the weekly contest winners' names will be in a drawing for an Amazon Echo Show! Here are the winners, so far.

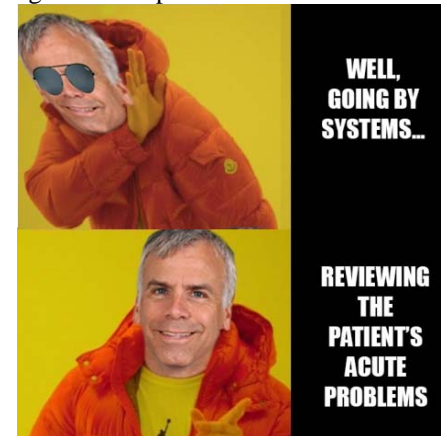
Week 1 – The winner of the Haiku contest was Chris Maierhofer with the following:

Torn away from sleep  
Cursed necklace of duty  
Never-mind, wrong team

Week 2 – The Rejected Valentine. There were two winners – one for the best card and one for the best candy heart. The candy heart winner is, again, Chris Maierhofer for his submission: Dictate Dirty 4 Me!

The rejected card goes to Ripal Patel:  
Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
I'd rather be single than be with you

Week 3- Memes. Chris Maierhofer once again took top honors:



Week 4 – The caption contest is currently underway. So, the exciting conclusion of Fun February (and the answer to whether Chris can pull a four-for-four win) will be included in the next issue. Stay tuned...

## Wellness at the Crack of Noon

Three of our resident Dots treated their fellow residents with an osteo wellness Wednesday. It was a very big hit! Thanks to Kristin, Dean, and Brett for what ended up being a very big treat!

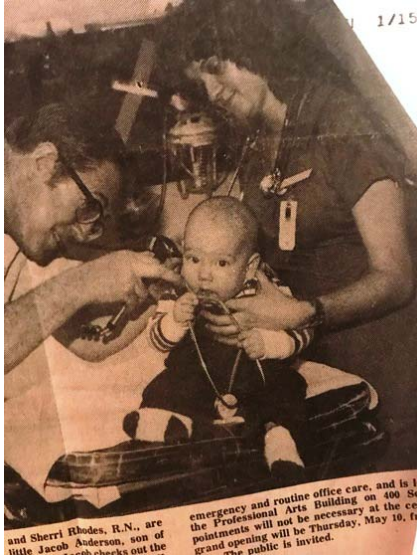




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**Then and Now**

Jake Anderson shared a picture of himself at his pediatrician's office a few years ago.



We have to say that very little has changed (other than the beard).



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 3/1 Janet Tsang, Clara Galster
- 3/17 Samara Appelstein
- 3/19 Dean Karahalios
- 3/22 Anam Farooqui
- 3/23 Moshe Roberts
- 3/24 Tyler Colangelo
- 3/25 Ann Botash
- 5/28 Rohan Akhouri

**Sightings**

The Crier was sent this picture of former ID NP, Carol Cambareri, former resident Nick Bennett and his wife Erin hard at work at a Peds ID conference in Hawaii. In his spare time, Nick is now the Division Head of Peds ID at Connecticut Children's Hospital.

