



# Pediatric Crier

## Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

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

### The Kenya Experience



As we reported last month, Drs. Shaw and Hobson were accompanied by Drs. Asmita Sharma and Saber Jan to Kenya in January. The Crier asked each of them if they would be willing to share a few thoughts on their experience.

Saber wrote: “The Kenya trip was a life changing experience. I am so grateful for this opportunity to learn about new culture, people, and practicing medicine in an under resourced area. We could not apply the same American guidelines in managing patients. I believe it’s an art to manage patients based on your clinical sense and choosing the best management option you have given the limited investigations and treatment options. I learned to be so grateful for all the medical resources that we have in the States. I learned to enjoy the moment and to celebrate life day by day because the current moment is too precious to waste by thinking about the past or future. I liked the wisdom of the Luo community in Kisumu, Kenya in celebrating life at funerals particularly if someone passed the age of 60. This trip did not open my eyes to a new area of the world with limited medical resources, but helped me to grow internally and learn a new way of living and appreciating the current moment of life.”



Asmi shared the following: “Being in Kenya was honestly an amazing experience for me. It’s wonderful to see people give their best even with low resources and see them work hard at trying to help people. It was very humbling to try and treat the disease without many tests to guide you, what you had were few and not always diagnostic. It takes you right to the root of medicine where you rely on your history and clinical skills. It also made me realize how fortunate we are to have the resources and people with numerous skills around

us. I am much more appreciative of that now. And I hope this experience made me a better clinician. I can’t gush enough about the sun and the people. They are friendly and kind and the sun just brightens your whole day. The hustle and bustle of the city, as Saber says ‘the city seems so alive’, you get a glimpse in people’s lives and feel connected to them. In short, it was raw, authentic, humbling, and amazing experience!” We thank Saber and Asmi for these very thoughtful reflections. We also thank Saber for the photos.



### Peds Residents accepted to HEAL-USA

Congratulations to Precious Sanni Adeniyi, Sarah Hendrix, Mohamed Khallaf, Abeir Mohamed, Simi George, Dayna Ukwuoma, and Lauren Thomas on their acceptance to HEAL-USA! The Housestaff Emerging Academy of Leaders (HEAL) program is a networking and professional development program designed for historically underrepresented groups. The ultimate mission of HEAL is to decrease healthcare disparities by increasing the number of underrepresented minority physician leaders in academic practice.

To complete the program, HEAL-USA participants must accomplish several requirements including six webinar sessions, monthly “challenge” assignments, optional coaching skills training, and a Leadership Seminar and Graduation Ceremony in July.

### Virtual Social Hours and Match Day!

Thanks to our residents and chiefs, the residency program was able to offer two different virtual second looks for our applicants in February. On 2/9, Dayna Ukwuoma and Lauren Thomas hosted our first ever URiM (Underrepresented in Medicine) social hour. Approximately 17 applicants came and enjoyed a wonderful evening where they felt free to discuss issues that might affect them as URiM residents. Then on 2/23 Holly Stacey hosted a virtual second look for any applicants who are interested. Almost 50 applicants attended. Thank you to Holly, along with Alex, Precious, MKY, Deepa, Areeb, Rida, Sarah S, Lexi, Sarah H and Clara who were all willing to give up an hour to help make this a

hugely successful night. And we quote Holly who told us, “There were a ton of applicants and the conversation seemed to flow. Everyone there seemed genuinely interested and continued to smile/laugh/talk throughout the entire session ... The residents we included were INCREDIBLE!” We are so appreciative of the residents and the chiefs for helping with these last opportunities to let our applicants know why this is the place to be! In less than three weeks we will find out who will be joining us in July!

### Beyond the Doctorate Research Day - March 1

The College of Graduate Studies' Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and the Office of Graduate Medical Education invite the Upstate community to celebrate the research accomplishments of Upstate's postdocs, residents, and fellows by participating in this year's Beyond the Doctorate Research Day on Weds, March 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be in person this year, in the NAB 4414 BC Talks will begin at 1 p.m., followed by the keynote address at 3 p.m. which will be given by Kathryn B. Anderson, MD, PhD CTropMed, Commissioner of Health, Onondaga County Health Dept, Assoc Prof, Dept of Microbiology and Immunology; Upstate. A poster session will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m and we have THREE members of our department who will have posters on display. So stop in at 4 PM to see Danielle Daniels, Heather Ross, and Laaibah Ejaz! To learn more visit:

[https://www.upstate.edu/postdoc/postdoc\\_life/beyond-doctorate-research-day/index.php](https://www.upstate.edu/postdoc/postdoc_life/beyond-doctorate-research-day/index.php)

### She Said Yes!

It’s official! We are so excited to be able to announce the engagement of Andrew Smith and Simi George. The ring was presented and formally accepted earlier this month at Costa Mujeres. We couldn’t be happier for this lovely couple and wish them a beautiful future together!



## Resident Appreciation Week

Note that the annual hospital-wide Resident Appreciation Week was 2/20-2/24. There were events scheduled for each day of the week including snacks, pets, massages, a month-long membership to the CAB Gym, and a resident appreciation Crunch Game on Friday night. The Pediatric Program helped celebrate at their Thursday Conference on February 23<sup>rd</sup> with treats, lunch, and gift cards. The Chair, Dr. Conners also stopped by to share his appreciation on behalf of the entire department. We all know the hospital could not run without our hard working residents and it is a privilege to be able to take a week to let them know they are appreciated.

## Where Are They Now?



This is traditionally a section where we share the adventures of former residents and faculty who have left the program. In this case, we are sharing the adventures of a former chair who actually still works here occasionally. Apparently not

occasionally enough to be recognized by some of the residents. We received a nice update from our previous chair, Dr. Tom Welch who shared, in part, the following:

“As you no doubt know, I have continued to work weekends while we are in NY. I love getting to take care of kids without worrying about budgets, misbehaving residents, unhappy faculty, and mad parents! Only downside is that the residents (and some new faculty) don't know who I am. Funny story about that: I was on one weekend and Jody Sima needed a renal consult on one of her patients. She asked the resident to check AMION and "call nephro." The resident told her "There must be some mistake. They show somebody named 'Welch' covering nephrology." ..We are moving to Gainesville... Gainesville is a college town (actually, it is very much like what one would get by picking up Syracuse and moving it a thousand miles south), which really fits us. It is great to go into a restaurant and be among the oldest patrons for a change. They have a terrific medical school, and I know many of the pediatric faculty. In fact, I trained half of their pediatric nephrologists (including Larry Shoemaker, who is there now). I will have some connection there, although I won't actually do any patient care. Yet... Give my best to the gang, and hope to see you when I am back working in May....”

## EDUCATION CORNER

Chris Kuehnle

The clerkship was presented with a last-minute need to find some volunteers, when their usual person who does a formative session with the Binghamton students was not available. Chris had to find volunteers to take six students. She explains, “I reached out to about eight residents, some of who had already signed up to take a

student, and some who had not. All have been super helpful this year in doing the formative session #1 with our MSIII's! We had 2 lovely residents (Akilah Evans and Lauren Thomas) agree to take 2-3 each! SUPER helpful!! They were so gracious to help out!!! And we appreciate them!!!”  
Thank you Akilah and Lauren!

## Valentine Ball for All!

The Upstate Foundation described its Valentine Ball For All on February 8<sup>th</sup> as a “magical evening, filled with bubbles, dancing, and special guests”. There were also a few familiar faces, too. The 21<sup>st</sup> annual event was held at the Destiny USA Embassy Suites and was hosted by the Upstate Foundation and Salt City Warriors, and replaces the Father/Daughter Valentine Ball. It was open to all children ages 3 and up, and their parent(s), or caregiver(s). The evening included entertainment, face painting, photo booths, crafts, gifts, and more. Proceeds benefited pediatric mental health services at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.



Handsome Reese Gallant and his mom.

## Welcome Reymansh Garg

Most of you probably Remember a very pregnant Reena Ray Garg at graduation last year. Somehow it took us a while to be able to announce the outcome. Congratulations to Reena on the birth of Reyansh Garg, on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 lbs 15 ozs. Reena and her family are in Torrance, CA where she is in private practice when she's not being a mom.



## In The News

Dr. Jana Shaw was featured on the “Informed Patient” Podcast on 1/19 discussing the Measles Outbreaks and the importance of Vaccinations.  
<https://www.upstate.edu/informed/2023/011723-shaw-podcast.php>

## Radiothon Thanks

Thank you to all who participated in the 2023 GCH Radiothon in February either through interviews, phones, or donations. Together, more than \$173,000 was raised for patient amenities at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital

## Valentines from Otto

Thank you to the Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications and their friend Otto the Orange who stopped by the GCH on Valentine's Day to deliver big red heart balloons to all the patients.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/6 Melanie Comito  
3/9 Tobey Kresel  
3/16 Jennifer Zuccaro  
3/25 Lexi Sirota, Ann Botash  
3/29 Sarah Sloan  
3/30 Mayank Sharma  
3/31 Lizzy Simmerman

# BEYOND THE DOCTORATE RESEARCH DAY 2023

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

1:00 TO 6:00 PM • NAB 4414



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

**KATHRYN B. ANDERSON, MD/PHD CTROP MED**

Commissioner of Health, Onondaga County Health Department  
Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology  
Department of Medicine  
SUNY Upstate Medical University

## SPEAKERS



BIRX NOLAN, MD



ADRIAN PROUMEN, DO



RACHEL SAGER, PhD



REBECCA SAGER, MD/PhD



KENTARO TAKAHASHI, PhD

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- 1:00 Welcome—Mark Schmitt, PhD  
Dean, College of Graduate Studies  
Opening Remarks—Mantosh Dewan, MD  
President, Upstate Medical University
- 1:15 Adrian Proumen, DO (Resident; Anesthesiology)  
“Vortex Approach to Airway Management Pilot Project”
- 1:30 Rachel Sager, PhD (Postdoc; Neuroscience & Physiology)  
“Diverging Trajectories of Cytokine  
Expression During Postnatal Development of the Human  
Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex”
- 1:45 Break
- 2:00 Birx Nolan, MD (Resident; OBGYN)  
“Increased cervical diameter is associated with failure of  
sentinel lymph node mapping in patients with endometrial  
cancer.”
- 2:15 Kentaro Takahashi, PhD (Postdoc; Pharmacology)  
“Obesity dysregulates Chromatin response to hypoxia  
that governs metabolic programming and dying cell  
clearance in macrophages”
- 2:30 Rebecca Sager, MD/PhD (Resident; Urology)  
“Regulation of protein phosphatase 5 (PP5) activity and  
substrate release by phosphorylation and SUMOylation”
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Keynote: Kathryn B. Anderson, MD, PhD CTropMed  
Commissioner of Health,  
Onondaga County Health Department  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
Department of Medicine SUNY Upstate Medical University

## POSTER SESSION AND RECEPTION

4 - 5:30 Poster Session

4:30 Reception begins

**UPSTATE**  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL SHAUNA ARNOLD AT [ARNOLDSH@UPSTATE.EDU](mailto:ARNOLDSH@UPSTATE.EDU)