



### Exceptional Teachers!

Congratulations to Elena Wolner and Andrew Smith who both received Exceptional Teacher Recognition from the Dean of the College of Medicine for feedback received about each of them from the students. Dean Chin explains, "At the end of every course and clerkship, the medical students are surveyed and asked to tell me stories about faculty members, residents, nurses, therapists, or anyone else, who have impacted or influenced them in a significant way. They are asked to tell us what those teachers did that resulted in an exceptional educational experience and how it changed them." Here is a sample for each of our resident winners:

**Andrew Smith:** "Andrew is an exceptional resident who went above and beyond to make sure students did not feel lost and were learning. He gave great tips on presentations, explained important questions to ask for history...I felt that he truly cared about students and our education, and made sure we did not feel mistreated." "...He creates a positive and relaxed learning environment for students, and helped guide my learning a lot during this clerkship. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him!"

**Elena Wolner:** "The resident really looked out for me and knew that I was trying to improve my patient progress note writing. She would go out of her way to take on additional patients that I was interested in seeing despite already having a lot of patients already in order to go over my progress notes and give feedback on how to improve."

### AAP Gang

Two of our residents were at the AAP National Conference in October which was held in Anaheim. Colleen Feeny went as our peer-nominated AAP Rep, and Laaibah Ejaz was there to present her abstract, "Thyrotoxic Periodic Paralysis in a Caucasian Adolescent Male". Needless to say, they ran into a few old friends who all decided to go out for dinner one evening. Thanks to Moshe Roberts for sharing the photo!



### Also spotted at the AAP

Another former resident, Rana El Fegaly (2010) sent a picture from the AAP that she took with Chris Lopez and Kelly Winchell.



### The Nasp-ghang!

Also, in October, another two of our residents, along with several GI faculty, were able to participate in the Annual NASPGHAN (North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition) Conference in Orlando. Shehzad Ahmed and Rida Sherwani both had abstracts accepted.



We are proud to have so many of our residents representing us through their publications this year!

### Still Representing Us

Former resident Aarani Kandeepan and current hospitalist Dr. Melissa Schafer co-authored a poster that was accepted at the next SCCM Conference in January, in San Francisco. Their abstract is entitled, "A Critical Case of Zinc Deficiency and Associated Sepsis". Congratulations! We hope to share photographic evidence of the presentation after the conference.

### In the News:

#### Annual Community Health Fair

Andrea Shaw, M.D.

I am happy to report that our Community-Clinic partnership team with Upstate + Catholic Charities, partnered last Friday 10/21 for 4 hours of a community health fair at the refugee center northside CYO. Upstate sponsored and successfully supported >220 New Americans (only 220 signed in, many walked past without realizing the sign in) who attended the fair to receive health screenings, primary care counseling (BP/BMI/glucose screens) and connectivity to care, cancer screening counseling and support, flu shots, covid boosters, vision screening, oral health education and dental referrals, mental health education, poison center counseling, and physical therapy sessions related to health and wellness! The community brought ~15 refugee navigators and support staff to interpret in >25 languages to lead new Americans through the fair. Our Upstate clinical refugee team (led by Dr. Barb Feuerstein and myself, 2 RNs, 2 PA/NPs) was joined by She Matters, Poison Center, the PT department faculty. We had 50 medical students, medicine residents, PT students, and MPH students volunteer with us at this event.



It was well attended and a good example of how community-clinic partnership enhances addresses health disparities and raises awareness of important health topics for highly diverse refugee and immigrant populations.



Here is a link written in Syracuse.com about the event and its history.

<https://www.syracuse.com/opinion/2022/10/refugees-immigrants-can-get-healthcare-at-syracuse-health-fair-your-letters.html>

### “Christina Alaimo brings changes...”

Upstate Online featured our very own Christina Alaimo for her “fresh perspective and new ideas to the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program at the Golisano Center for Special Needs.”

Henry Roane, PhD, division chief of the Center for Development, Behavior and Genetics at Upstate and the executive director for the Golisano Center for Special Needs explained her unique role this way: “She’s a bit of a unicorn,” Roane said. “There are very few people in the world who have the ability to get dually licensed as a behavior analyst and as a licensed psychologist. She’s one of those people, so that makes her unique. Even within that, there are very few people who have those two credentials who also have expertise in the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. To be perfectly frank, we are completely lucky to have found her.” He concludes, “She has been a wonderful addition”.



For the full article, visit:

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/2022-10-18-pedsfeeding.php>

### Thanks to Dr. Wratney, Six Students Going to AAMC

We received the following from Dr. Angela Wratney who created and delivered a

Facilitation Training Course for six selected COM students; and as a result, all six students were selected to represent Upstate at the AAMC National meeting in November. Each student will be leading a roundtable discussion, having had their topic selected, and the tables are seated by the US Medical school Deans, scholars, Faculty leaders and educators! The student facilitator will lead the roundtable discussion using the techniques and materials presented in the session Dr. Wratney designed. Each student also became a facilitator at Upstate 101 in mid-September. Upstate 101 is the largest inter-college Upstate-led interprofessional student introduction to culture and interprofessional core concepts.

Dr. Wratney has been busy. In addition to the above (and running a PICU in her spare time), we also discovered that she presented a talk, "Perspectives on Pediatric Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: PARDS" at the New York State Society of Respiratory Care on October 6, 2022 to over 60 participants.

### Where Are They Now?

Brooke Fraser ran into Saadiya Khan (2011) at an International Peds Heme/Onc Conference in Barcelona in September. Saadiya is currently working in Pakistan.



### Buffalo Connection

We heard from former resident Ripal Patel (2019) who let us know she is now a PICU attending in Buffalo (<https://medicine.buffalo.edu/faculty/profile.html?ubit=ripalpat>) along with former resident Michael Bowler (2018) (<https://medicine.buffalo.edu/faculty/profile.html?ubit=mbowler>). Congratulations to them both!



### Engaged!

Congratulations to former resident Dean Karahalios (2021) who sent us the following:

“I recently had a great vacation, too. I got engaged to my now fiancée, Elani Balis, in Greece! We both have family in Greece and my parents were also traveling there at the time. After the engagement, we met my parents in my family's village for a small celebration. A few days later, we visited Elani's family's village, where her aunt and uncle threw us an engagement party at their taverna. It was really special!”

We are so happy for Dean and Elani and wish them the best!



### Interview Season

By the time you read this, we will have had our first day of interviews. The residency interview season began on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup> and will run through mid-January. We plan to interview 180 candidates and at this point the interview spots are all filled.

Thank you to all the faculty who signed up to help out. We have got almost all of the half-day spots filled but let Dr. Nelsen or Patty know if you would like to be a backup. Thank you, too, to all the residents who have signed up to host or participate in some of the nine virtual social hours the night before each interview. We heard the first event, hosted by Ayat, was a huge success. We know it is largely due to our great residents (and time spent with them) that we end up with such great residents! It is not too late if you would like to join any of the upcoming social hours. Just let us know the date(s) you can attend.

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 Irene Cherrick
- 11/5 Christopher Justinich
- 11/7 Billy Hall
- 11/8 Joe D., Manika S.
- 11/9 Sara Taha, Nus Zaman
- 11/10 Lucia Janovicova
- 11/26 Elizabeth Paulsen
- 11/27 Maxence Gilles, Deepa Thomas