



Pediatric Crier

Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

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

Welcoming New Faculty

Jason Zeleny, BCBA

We are excited to be able to introduce our new Feeding Disorder Specialist who works in the FBA Clinic. Jason shared the following with the Crier:

I am an Upstate transplant, who was born and raised in Omaha, NE. I have worked in the field of applied behavior analysis for over 13 years in various positions at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute in the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders and Pediatric Feeding Disorders Programs. I have been practicing as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) for the past 5 years in the area of pediatric feeding disorders and early intervention (i.e., increasing communication, social, and daily living skills for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder). Prior to finding this niche many years ago, I had no idea what a pediatric feeding disorder was and could not fathom someone not wanting to eat as it's such a natural and basic instinct. However, after learning about the principles of behavior and how multiple etiologies can contribute to the development of a pediatric feeding disorder, I began to understand how it can occur and that it occurs more often than we think! And for some children, it continues to be a problem that they do not simply grow out of, even after any underlying medical problems have resolved. After working with my first case in the pediatric feeding disorder program and seeing how much we were able to help the child their family by increasing his oral intake, decreasing his inappropriate mealtime behavior and food refusal, and eventually get off of his feeding tube, I was hooked and have enjoyed working with this population ever since.

Recently, I was given an opportunity to join Upstate Medical University to help teach other people about behavior analysis and how it can be used to help improve the lives of others. I also joined the team at the Family Behavior Analysis (FBA)

Program to help expand its feeding services and to provide our services to more people. I began this new adventure on August 3rd and am very excited to be here! Some of the most rewarding aspects of working in this field has been being able to help others, whether big or small, to see children and their family members learn new things that help make their lives better, and to bring a smile to their faces.

Outside of the work environment, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Melissa, and our dog, Minnie (Australian Shepard). Together we enjoy hiking, being in nature, swimming, biking, hanging out with family, and above all else, gaming on the computer or PlayStation. I'm also a bit of a computer nerd, so I also find myself wrapped up in learning new things about technology and how to use it to make things more efficient and streamlined and how to deliver our services to others from a distance. Thank you for the warm welcome and for asking me to introduce myself!



Virtual 2020-2021 Class Pictures

Pandemic or not, we needed to be sure to get our annual housestaff photos. Social distancing was strictly enforced.



And of course this shot...



The 2020 Intern Retreat

The 15 new interns had their overnight intern retreat on September 10-11 at the newly remodeled Embassy Suites in East Syracuse. There is much we do not know about their overnight since they were on their own. But we do know the competition was fierce the next day as the program directors put them through their team building exercises. They seem to have bonded fairly well. Feel free to ask an intern if you are curious about what they are trying to accomplish in this picture.



For the annual egg drop, only one team's "patient" survived the experience from the second floor of the Embassy Suites. Congratulations to Team Wildcat for achieving this admirable accomplishment! Pictured is the winning team Lizzy, Asmi, and Rida, along with

a rather interesting looking parachute device and a perfectly intact egg.



Overall, it was a great opportunity for the Class of 2023 to be able to spend a little free time together away from work after their first couple of months on the job.



Special thanks to the chiefs and all the other residents who helped to cover so the interns could get away!

EDUCATION CORNER

Dr. Leah Bennett

2020 will be remembered as an impactful year. As Pediatricians, we have confronted many challenges from ensuring children receive vaccines when families are nervous to bring them to our offices, to protecting at-risk children from abuse when they are not leaving the home, to learning to examine tympanic membranes while wearing face shields. Among the biggest challenges we continue to face is promoting equity, inclusion and antiracism as we care for patients, interact in the clinical environment and educate the next generation of physicians. The AAP took an historic step recently in acknowledging and apologizing for the barriers it created that resulted in the exclusion of African American Pediatricians from membership (Truth, Reconciliation, and Transformation: Continuing on the Path to Equity, Pediatrics. 2020 September; 146(3): e2020019794; DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-019794>). However, bias still exists in the learning environment today.

In an effort to address one of the ways bias affects our learners, during evaluation, we would like to ask each of you to take two additional steps each time you fill out an evaluation for students (and residents). Before filling out the evaluation, please reflect on your own biases and how they may influence your perspective on the learner you are about to evaluate. After completing the evaluation, please review what you have written looking for any language or phrases that reflect bias and edit/remove them prior to submitting. The College of Medicine has added a reminder at the top of student MedHub evaluations to cue each of us to engage in this reflection with every evaluation we fill out. It states:

As medical educators, we value diversity and inclusion and we strive to treat students fairly and equitably. However, we also know that, in spite of our best effort, bias can impact behaviorally based assessment. Many educators will be interested in taking steps to mitigate their own biases.

Finally, if you have not already done so this academic year, please follow the link below to the tutorial "Addressing Bias in Learner Assessment" from the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine that SUNY Upstate College of Medicine has asked all preceptors to review each semester.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFnVgi5OdI_8AO2WeqHFBciiixsnrlrXLRulmmfSAFerlfOg/viewform

Thank you for taking these small steps to ensure learners in our department are evaluated in a fair and bias-free manner.

Half-Centurion!



Congratulations to our very own Kathy Messina who is celebrating 50 years of service at Upstate! Upstate Online did a lovely article about her.

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2020/2020-09-10-crdfifty.php>

Congratulations, Kathy! Here's to the next 50!

Caption Contest Winners!



While many were too stunned by the content of last month's contest photo to come up with a caption, a few stepped up to the challenge with great entries. The two Joes took top honors this month!

"Oh...come on! I'll show ya how to take this bull by the horns with a smile on yer face! Love, John." – Joe Domachowke

"Wow - that's a beautiful gold picture frame!!" – Joe Nimeh

Congratulations Dr. Domachowske and Dr. Nimeh!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Stuart Trust

10/15 Alicia Pekarsky

10/18 Scott Corrigan, Jennifer Myszewski

10/22 Howard Weinberger

10/23 Uzma Rani, Frank Smith, Suzanne Addabbo