



Welcoming New Faculty!

UPAC Welcomes Dr. Uzma Rani!

We realize this is a familiar name to most of you, but we are proud to introduce Dr. Rani as one of our new faculty! She tells the Crier, "Hello everyone! I am delighted to join UPAC as a pediatrician. Although I am originally from Pakistan, Syracuse has come a second home to me over the last many years. I have learned to enjoy the long winter packed with snow!! I have recently completed the Pediatrics residency from Upstate and it's an honor to stay here in the same awesome community. In addition to my job, I enjoy playing family games and exploring places with my kids and husband."

Some may notice another familiar face in Dr. Rani's family photo. She just happens to be married to Dr. Aamer Imdad who is one of our GI faculty.



I am originally from the Philippines and lived in NYC for 6 years to complete all my medical training.

Prior to moving to Syracuse, I have been spending time in Skaneateles. My partner's family has long-time roots there—several generations! I think Upstate NY is a gorgeous place to live in and has easy access to NYC, which is another home away from home.

Outside of work, you may find me relaxing on a boat on Skaneateles Lake with Uni our 1-year-old Golden Retriever. My partner and I love to travel and try various exciting activities. I am enjoying learning how to ski and play tennis."



Again, we welcome Dr. Candava to the department!

Peds GI Welcomes Rheu Cristine Candava

We are excited to be able to introduce our new Gastroenterologist to you and warmly welcome Dr. Rheu Cristine Candava. Dr. Candava completed his Peds GI fellowship at SUNY Downstate after a Peds residency at Harlem Hospital Center – Columbia University. He is a graduate of the Far Eastern University School of Medicine in the Philippines. He tells the Crier, "That's me! I am the Hybrid Doctor. I am beyond thrilled to be the new Pediatric Gastroenterologist sharing my time with the General Pediatric family. I believe it's a unique opportunity for teaching and more learning.

Welcoming our new Endocrinologist, Dr. Nisha Patel

We are delighted to also have a new Pediatric Endocrinologist and welcome Dr. Nisha Patel to our Peds family. Dr. Patel tells the Crier, "Hi, I'm excited to be joining the Pediatric Endocrinology team at Upstate and was glad to get the chance to come back to the east coast! I am originally from Clarks Summit,



PA and went to Drexel University for medical school. I completed my pediatric residency at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, CT before heading to Columbus, OH for my Pediatric Endocrinology fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital. In my free time I enjoy hiking, traveling, reading, and baking. I look forward to meeting everyone and exploring more of upstate New York!" We warmly welcome her to our Peds family.

The Intern Retreat

From Thursday night through Friday, September 9-10, the 15 interns all disappeared for their PL1 retreat at the Embassy Suites. They spent the evening together by themselves at the hotel and got up the next morning to be joined by the three program directors for some fun, conversation, and team building activities. It should be noted that four eggs gave their lives this year with no survivors. Humpty Dumpty revisited as the carefully bundled packages soared from the second floor only to meet their demise on the hard ground below.



Thankfully, the interns have dedicated their lives to the care of children (and not eggs). But they had a wonderful time together and no doubt created some lasting memories.



Advocacy Bus Tour

Dr. Joshua Bonville

“On September 1st, our new pediatric interns, some pediatric faculty, and a senior resident or two embarked on a trip through the city of Syracuse. A big thank you to our bus driver, Zakayah, who brought us all over the city on our 1+ hour adventure. The purpose of this bus tour is to orient the new pediatric residents to the area where their patients live while also briefly discussing how the city has been shaped over the last century by political and socioeconomic factors. During the trip, we pass by many of the Syracuse City Schools that our patients attend. We also see the numerous parks and houses that our families live in. We discuss how multiple forces led to heavy segregation throughout the City of Syracuse and review some community and political outreach projects attempting to fix these systemic injustices. Our stops also include some of the many community-based health centers, Planned Parenthood, the Ronald McDonald House, the Boys and Girls Club, and other historical community landmarks. Dr Blatt is always sure to provide some Biscotti’s treats during the tour, which concludes with a view of the city from Onondaga Park. While it is impossible to see all the important sites and services our community has to offer, this bus tour serves as a starting point to better the understanding of our community at large.”

Thanks to Dr. Bonville for writing this report for us. Dr. Bonville took over navigation duties this year and according to one of the participants, “did a stellar job. He was juggling online and multiple print maps and kept us right on track with the bus driver.” Dr. Blatt gave some final thoughts outside the treehouse after the tour.



The Happiest Moment

Congratulations to former resident Veena Gopalakrishnan (2021) who got married on August 20th in Toronto. She told the Crier that she and her husband Aditya (Adi) Date “had been waiting for this day for a very long time given the border situation and after 8 years of distance, we finally get to be together :) It was just the happiest moment!” We are so happy for the both of them and wish them the best.



Congratulations, Nadya and Alex
And congratulations to former resident Nadya Dillon (2021) who married Alex Rodriguez on September 5th.



Interview Season Begins!

On September 29th the ERAS post office officially opened and the residency program started a new season of applicants with over 1200 applications on the first day! Virtual interviews start on November 5th. Thanks to all the residents who have already signed up to help with our virtual interview dinners. We’re going to have a great year!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Stuart Trust
10/3 Akilah Evans
10/15 Alicia Pekarisky
10/18 Jennifer Myszewski
10/19 Kimberly Rush
10/22 Howard Weinberger
10/23 Uzma Rani, Frank Smith, Suzanne Addabbo
10/30 Hadassah McCray