



Pediatric Crier

Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

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

Welcoming New Faculty

We are super excited to be able to introduce two new faculty members to you this month! We have a new hospitalist and a new PICU attending.

Welcome, Dr. Kimberly Rush



We are excited to introduce our new PICU faculty member, Dr. Kimberly Rush, who joins us from UVA. The Crier was able to get an exclusive interview with Dr. Rush:

Hello Everyone! Thank you for such a warm welcome to the family at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

I grew up along the St. Lawrence River between the villages of Clayton and Alexandria Bay, NY. Figure skating was my most beloved hobby and a major influence in many of my approaches to life. Ultimately, medicine came as a natural calling with my dad being the town family physician, but it wasn't until later in college that I finally chose to pursue the profession.

My undergraduate education was at Cornell University where I majored in Human Development and learned a lot of things both major and non-major related. My decision to pursue medicine came after very careful consideration on the costs and rewards of dedicating oneself to the profession. After I made this decision I slowly migrated South, pursuing my education. I went to Penn State College of Medicine located in Hershey, PA for medical school and stayed on at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital for residency. I chose critical care ultimately because it was the best specialty apart from hematology/oncology that fit my personality. For fellowship I landed in Charlottesville Virginia at University of Virginia's Children's Hospital.

My experiences at both places were phenomenal and I met a lot of people along the way who role modeled what kind of physician, teacher, and person I

want to be. Ultimately, my view is that a mentally and emotionally healthy team is the recipe for high quality patient care and that belief drives my operations throughout the day.

I am honored to come back and give back to the area where my roots were initially established. I bring with me my small hoard of critters that I consider family. Ares is my 3 year old beloved Great Dane. Loki is my sweet, dog-like, and obese 8 year old cat. Skrillex is my 7 year old aging bearded dragon who refuses to eat his vegetables.



I am very excited to meet all of you and once again thank you for the warm welcome.

Editor's note: Occasionally, new faculty include pictures of themselves in their Crier interview. In other cases, they submit pictures of bearded dragons.

Welcome, Dr. Kerry Biggs



We are also extremely pleased to be able to introduce our new hospitalist, Dr. Kerry Biggs to you:

Aloha Pediatric colleagues! Patty offered me this opportunity to introduce myself. I had the honor of joining the Pediatric Hospitalist group part-time at the beginning of July. Last August my family and I moved to the Syracuse area from Hawaii, where I had been a Med-Peds Hospitalist with Hawaii Permanente Medical Group for 6 years. I am grateful, especially in light of the unpredictable nature of this year, not only to be closer to our extended families, but also to be starting a new job! Many of you have likely met my husband, Andrew Osten MD, who joined the Pediatric Hospitalist group at the time of our move. I

am slowly settling in at the Children's Hospital and am excited to work with our students and residents, as well as get back to patient care after my brief hiatus. I look forward to working alongside you to care for our community ...and maybe some day seeing the lower 2/3 of your faces in person!

When I am not wearing my doctor hat, I take on my other favorite role—mom to our three children (ages 15mo, 3yrs, and almost 5yrs). Thanks to them I rarely sit still, and when not folding laundry or doing dishes will be found biking, hiking, swimming, crafting, baking, gardening, and exploring this beautiful place we now call home! I love learning about other languages and cultures, am slowly teaching myself to play the ukulele, and am sustained by my faith. I am a firm believer in our ability to better ourselves and the world around us. Please say hello if you see me around and thank you in advance for your patience—universal masking and social distancing are interesting curveballs when it comes to recognizing and getting to know new people!

Go slowly and keep smiling,
Kerry Biggs MD



Shots for Tots!

Several of the UPAC staff and faculty organized and participated in an immunization day for the City School District on August 25th at McKinley Brighton School from 9:00 to 2:30 PM. They were able to vaccinate about 100 kids. A few of the residents volunteered their time including Carlee Lenehan, Rohan Akhouri, Nara Cho, Scott Corrigan, and Saber Jan. Prior to the event, there were about 2300 children in the SCSD who were in need of immunizations for school. This was UPAC's first effort to help kids get caught up.



SIM Day 2020

The Peds ED hosted the first SIM day for the residents for the new academic year on August 13th. About 30 residents spent the morning learning, splinting, stitching, and participating in the various Simulations the instructors took them through. A great big thanks to the Peds ED faculty who spent their morning working with our residents.



When asked how they liked the day, the residents gave it a universal thumbs up.



Paige's Butterfly Run a Virtual Success

The virtual version of Paige's Butterfly Run was a big success. Runners and pedalers had from 8/15-8/20 to put in their miles to help raise funds for Upstate's Peds Cancer patients. The Dept of Peds had quite a few runners and pedalers participate including two teams. The Peds Powerful Pedal Pushers team from the cancer center biked from Syracuse to

Rome on August 15th. They raised almost \$4000. The Cancer Spankers, which was mainly peds residents and program directors, all ran the 5K. They proudly reached their goal of raising over \$2000 with almost 50 donors supporting them.

Here are the Pedal Pushers revving up at the starting line:



Pictured below is a socially distant gathering of some of the Cancer Spankers after their very successful run.



Thank you again to all who pedaled, ran, and donated! Drs. Comito and Kennedy add their thanks as well: "Childhood cancer does not stop for a pandemic and family financial needs are even greater this year. We appreciate the efforts of our extended pediatric family for making these virtual events a success."



Caption Contest

Last month the Crier celebrated the opening of the new resident work room. This month, we would like to continue the celebration by coming up with a good caption for golden-framed picture the residents decided to decorate their new room with. If you haven't had the opportunity to see the original it really is...quite original.



Where Are They Now?

The Crier recently learned where several of our former residents ended up after fellowship. Congratulations to Danyal Thaver who is working in Peds Critical Care in Springfield, MO, Yorgo Zahlanie who is practicing Peds ID in Bangor, ME, and Brittney Whitford who is a Palliative Care attending at Cincinnati Children's. Pretty impressive!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/1 Brett Holdaway, Lisa Blystone
- 9/9 Laabiah Ejaz
- 9/10 Wendy Holz
- 9/24 Alex Ramirez, Holly Stacey