



### Welcome Shannon Mathewson

The Crier is pleased to welcome Shannon Mathewson, our new Associate Administrator for the Golisano Children's Hospital, to our Upstate team. Shannon has over 25 year of experience in healthcare administration both inpatient and outpatient. She holds a MBA from SUNY Polytechnic Institute, and a BS in Health service Administration from Ithaca College. Shannon shared the following with the Crier:

Hello Everyone! My name is Shannon Mathewson and it's great to be a part of the Upstate Golisano pediatrics team! I've been on the job now since June 30 and I'm making my way through meeting people and getting to know the organization. Previously I worked at Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) in Utica, NY where I was the Vice President of Operations for the last six years. My professional experience includes work in hospital ancillary operations (lab, medical imaging, pharmacy, RT, rehab), ambulatory medical practice operations (primary and specialty care), PCMH, cancer program administration, and IT. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking and spending time with my husband (Jim), three boys (David, Sean and Lucas), and German Shepard Dog (Mia). We are huge Star Wars fans and we also enjoy exploring the Adirondack Park! I look forward to working with you! If you have any questions or input, please feel free to reach out to me directly at [mathewsh@upstate.edu](mailto:mathewsh@upstate.edu) or 315-464-4247.



### Resident SIM Day, 2022

*Dr. Asalim Thabet*

"On 8/28/22, the pediatric residents joined the Pediatric Emergency Medicine attendings and fellows for the annual pediatric resident sim

education day. With the fantastic participation of pediatric models, the residents participated in hands on procedures and simulation cases. The residents perfected their splint skills, their suturing skills, and learned fundamental ultrasound skills. In addition, thanks to the high-fidelity mannequins, the residents were able to do real sim cases of sick children. Although the goal was to learn, lots of fun and laughter was had as well. Special thanks to our amazing pediatric models: Keira, Rowan, Seamus (Matt Thornton's children); Malik and Hamza (Asalim Thabet's children); and Aimee and Maia (Mitch McKinnon's twins). They eventually mastered the skills and became instant teachers."



Thank you again to the entire PED team (young and old) who helped make this excellent experience possible for the residents!

### Green Eggs and Team Building

On Thursday, 8/4, the residents participated in a two-hour team-building conference. The stated goals of the session was to "have fun, be together, and connect with each other". They practiced non-judgmental listening skills, and used teamwork to problem-solve which included some back to back artwork, and identifying famous pairs (such as Green Eggs and Ham).



We are not 100% sure, but it sure looks like Areeb was trying to cheat in this picture.



(Photos compliments of Aubrey Mariani)

### Just Arrived

Congratulations to Dr. Kate Okhman on the arrival of Baby #3! As Kate explained, "On July 27th, we have met a newest addition to our family - Maxwell Val Okhman. We're all healthy and doing well." When asked how the girls are enjoying their baby brother, Dr. Okhman told the Crier, "Very exciting. Maya, who's now 6, is a big helper and constantly asking what she can do to care for her little brother. Ella, who's now 3, keeps saying how cute he is and can't wait until he grows bigger so she can play with him."



### Kenya Revisited

Upstate Online did a great follow up story describing Dr. Andrea Shaw's first return visit to the Obama Children's Hospital since pre-Covid, along with three residents.

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/2022-08-03-kenya1.php>

Now that we are back up and running, additional trips are already being planned for this coming year starting as early as November. Stay tuned for updates.

### The \$100,000 Rescue

Last month we shared about the Rescue Mission's Run/Ride for the Rescue



fundraiser and several of you helped support it. As an update, we wanted to note that our very own Dr. Melanie Comito and her husband also participated in the biking event and helped in this annual event that ended up raising over \$100,000 to help provide meals throughout the year in Central New York! Thank you Dr. Comito for taking part!

## In the News

### A Good Sport

The GCH had a VIP visit last month. Alex Tuch of the Buffalo Sabres hockey team visited the Golisano Center for Special Needs and brought along a check for \$120,000, raised by his foundation, AT9, to support a multisensory room in the center. Our own all-star cast were there to welcome him. Alex has also served as the honorary co-chair of the Upstate Foundation's campaign for the Golisano Center for Special Needs, which has raised more than \$6.5 million. Upstate Online quoted Alex as he presented his gift: "To see the whole world pinned against them and come in each and every day with a big smile on their face, really showed me to take every day in stride and focus on the positives in life...I wanted to in turn help them as much as possible."



The full article is available online at: <https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/2/022-08-23-tuch.php>

### Kids Against Cancer Art

Don't miss the beautiful and colorful art exhibit now on display in Cancer Center's Guest Artist Gallery, located in the second-floor hospital connector. The exhibit will be available through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. For a small taste of what you will see, check out Upstate Online at:

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/2/022-08-03-kidscancer.php>

### Crushing it for the GCH

Speaking of good sports, the Orange Crush Lacrosse Team aka "Team Sexy Potato," raised \$10,000 along with awareness for the psychiatry high risk program at Upstate Medical University! The GCH FB page

quoted the program director Dr Robert Gregory's response to this generous gift: "You have saved lives, and we couldn't be more grateful."



One might have to pause and wonder how a lacrosse team decided on the name "Team Sexy Potato". It is worth visiting the team's site to see what they are all about.

"The name came from one of our lacrosse players and immediately made us laugh. Potatoes come in all shapes, sizes, and colors just like people. It's highly unlikely someone would define a potato as sexy or believe it has interesting or appealing qualities. However, we feel every potato has these qualities and just needs the right positive attitude, confidence, and support. Our initials SP, colors, and ribbon are intended to raise awareness for Suicide Prevention which according to the National Institute of Mental Health, is the 2nd leading cause of death in the US from ages 10-34... The Team Sexy Potato Fund is designated to support the Psychiatry High Risk Program at Upstate and/or a related program addressing research, education, prevention and treatment programs for children and adolescents struggling with mental illness, specifically those at an increased risk of self-harm or suicide." For more info or to help support their cause (or get a really cool pair of sunglasses): <https://team-sexy-potato.square.site/>

### Where Are They Now? Joyce Saliba

Former resident, Dr. Joyce Saliba (2016) shared the following family photo.



Joyce tells the Crier, "I'm still in primary care in Mount Airy, NC. We are blessed with 2 girls now (4yrs, 15mo old)! They sure keep us busy!"

### Other Familiar Faces

And we received the following from Sophie Duron, Jean Meneses, and Luca (all 2022).



They are all settled in, and doing great in Lancaster, PA.

### Tox in the City

As most of you know, former resident Evan Ho (2022) is now a first-year fellow in Toxicology at LIJ in New York City. Since it is still a relatively new fellowship, it was interesting to hear how Evan started his first year of training. He wrote, "I am pretty much settled down in the city and adjusting to the new hospital system here in New York. Just went to the Staten Island Zoo with the toxicology crew here to learn about venomous snakes and antivenins haha. Missing the Upstate family for sure." Who'd have thought.

### Save the Date –

#### Intern retreat – September 15-16

On Thursday evening after work, the interns will be heading out for their overnight retreat at the Embassy Suites. They will be joined by the program directors the next morning for some fun and games, and team building time together. We hope to have the full report next month.

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Lisa Blystone  
9/5 Allison Clack  
9/9 Laaibah Ejaz  
9/10 Wendy Holz  
9/17 Janet Hobson  
9/22 Khalil Tamr Agha  
9/24 Alex Ramirez, Holly Stacey  
9/25 Christopher Fortner