



Pediatric Crier
Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

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

Adventures at the PHM Conference



The Annual Pediatric Hospital Medicine (PHM) Meeting was in Minneapolis, MN in early August. It is considered the premier educational conference for pediatric hospitalists. Our Dept was well represented by Drs. Myszewski, Schafer, Thomas, Alexander, and Shah. Tanmai and Lauren both had posters accepted.



The conference went very well. The trip home, not so much. After recovering, Dr. Myszewski shared a little of the adventure:

“We were all originally scheduled on the same flight out but that was canceled while we were all sitting patiently at the gate. So we stayed in a hotel nearby. Our return trip had us on different flights but traveling thru Atlanta. At 6am, we decided it wasn't worth the risk since Debby was hitting Florida/heading towards Georgia so we rented a minivan (17 hours may be an understatement due to a 1-hour delay courtesy of a traffic accident in Wisconsin and more delays due to construction and rush hour in Chicago). We ate a lot of snacks and drank a lot of caffeine along the way and arrived sometime after 5am. The picture of us smiling and bright eyed in the van is early in the trip.”



We are so glad they all got back safely with lots of stories to tell!

Welcome, Lillian!



We are excited to be able to introduce our new red team inpatient resident coordinator! Lillian Spencer started in August and shares the following: Hi everyone! My name is Lillian Spencer, more often known as Lilly. I am so excited to be starting here as an Inpatient Resident Coordinator in pediatrics working with the red team! I graduated from LeMoyne college in 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. After my degree, I went to work with at-risk youth at Elmcrest Residential Home. I worked with children aged 7-12 that were placed in long term care and I was trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention. I love working with children, and knew that it was what I wanted to pursue as a long-term career. After finding this job, I know that this is where I am meant to be! I am so excited to meet everyone and get to know you!

Bus Tour and a Big Surprise!

The Annual Intern Advocacy bus tour took place on 8/28. Dr. Blatt shared the following, “The tour is the last session of our Intern Advocacy Series. Syeisha Byrd from the Early Childhood Alliance and who seems to know about every neighborhood or city group in Syracuse, joined us and provided a lot of great information. We see a lot of Syracuse on the tour, including 4 of the 5 Syracuse high schools, elementary schools, the pharmacies where our prescriptions are filled, Biscotti's Bakery, parks, beautiful neighborhoods and neighborhoods with a lot of challenges. Attached is the group picture taken in Onondaga Park, one of my favorite places in Syracuse. It's a beautiful park. The tour is a great opportunity for residents to see places they otherwise wouldn't see and begin to learn about their new community.”



I wanted to share another “UPAC moment.” The other picture is me and Terry Jakoboswki. I met Terry when he was about 5 years old. He was a UPAC patient and then an ENHANCE patient. In 1997 when he was about 12 years old, he was adopted. As part of the adoption celebration, Terry and his parents went to Disney World. By chance, my family went to Disney at the same time. We ran into each other at the hotel in Disney and took this picture. He gave it to me and it's been in my office for 27 years (which is why the quality is so poor).



I remember attending Terry's high school graduation party. Terry remained my patient until his early 20's. He now drives shuttle buses for Upstate and does valet parking. By chance, Terry was the Tour Bus Driver. When the bus drove up to the Children's Hospital and the door opened, Terry and I both had big smiles on our faces. Watching my patients grow up is one of many reasons I love working at UPAC.”

Welcome to our two baby boys!

We are so excited to welcome our two newest members to the Department! Congratulations to Mubasshira Khan on the arrival of Baby Zayd on August 3rd. She tells the Crier, “We are beyond grateful for our little one. He is tiny and cute and takes up most of our time. We are excited for everyone to meet him soon!” Then, just three days later, Sara Taha welcomed the arrival of Baby Omar!



All are doing well! We are so happy for both of our new moms and wish them and their new families the very best!

SIM Day, 2024

Dr. Asalim Thabet

On 8/29, the pediatric residents had their annual pediatric simulation workshop teaching day at EMSTAT. The PEM attendings and fellows set up six stations and the residents rotated through a day full of hands-on experiences. They saved a teen trauma victim, they resuscitated an infant in SVT, and they saved another child from Dane! They practice real time ultrasound (US) with our US guru Dr. Balakumar. They rounded out the day with splinting and suturing practice. Special thanks to our pediatric volunteers: Keira, Edhem, Rana, Malik and Hamza.



Welcome Carolina!

The Division of Peds ID has a new CRA. We are pleased to be able to introduce you to Carolina Freuder. Carolina shares the following with us:

Hello Pediatric Department!

My name is Carolina Freuder, and I am thrilled to join the Upstate Medical community as a Clinical Research Associate (CRA). In my role, I am working closely with Dr. Weiner and Dr. Daniels on several exciting projects, including the cCMV Biorepository study, and NYSProactive. These studies are vital to advancing our understanding and treatment of various pediatric conditions, and I am eager to contribute to this important work.

Before joining Upstate, I worked in clinical research at the University of Rochester, Boston Medical Center, and the National Brain Tumor Society, where I managed multiple studies, focusing on pediatric and epidemiology. My passion for research and improving patient outcomes is what brought me to Upstate, and I am excited to be part of such a dedicated and talented team.

I earned my bachelor's from the University of Denver, where I developed a strong foundation in research methodologies and project management. Outside of work, I enjoy painting, hiking, and spending time with my family.

I'm originally from Costa Rica, and I moved to the area with my spouse and our son in 2020. I'm looking forward to exploring the local community and getting to know everyone here at Upstate.



Thank you all for the warm welcome, and I look forward to working with you!"

The Kathy Root Scholarship Winner!

The Division of Peds GI is excited to announce the winner of the first annual Kathy Root Scholarship for Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Congratulations to one of their star patients, Jonah Grothier who received \$500 for educational supplies for college. Kathy is the primary nurse for the Peds IBD program and has been a driving force in implementing quality improvement initiatives for their clinic. Dr. Wali explains, "Kathy is not only a remarkable nurse but also an inspiring leader and a true advocate for her patients. Her tireless dedication, compassionate care, and innovative spirit has improved the lives of many children and their families. Kathy has chosen Jonah for this award this year because of his remarkable resilience in achieving his goals while managing his IBD since the age of 7. We wish him the very best in his new endeavor in college."



Voluntary Faculty Award

We are pleased to announce that former resident Dr. Megan Campbell (Class of 2018) has been selected to receive the 2024 College of Medicine Voluntary Faculty Award for the Syracuse campus! She will receive the award at Fall Faculty Convocation on Wednesday, September 18, at 4:00 in Weiskotten Alumni Auditorium, with a reception in the courtyard to follow. We are very proud of Megan for this well deserved honor!

September events:

- Recruitment Virtual Open House - 9/12
- Intern Retreat - 9/12-9/13

Welcoming Khulood

In late July we finally had our full complement of PL1s. The class decided to have their own welcome party when Khulood arrived making the Class of 2027 complete.



Now that they are all here, we have an updated Class picture.



Correction - Adel and Claire

Last month we introduced the son of our former residents Claire Del Signore and Adel Abi-Hanna. Jacques is currently a first year resident here. He reminded the Crier that his parents were actually a year apart. Clare graduated in 1993 and Adel was in the class of 1994. Should Jacques decide to pursue a career in Pediatrics, he will be the class of 2031.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/1 Lisa Blystone
- 9/6 Jency Patel
- 9/10 Wendy Holz
- 9/17 Elizabeth Hobson
- 9/22 Khalil Tamer Agha
- 9/23 Karishma Desai
- 9/24 Holly Stacey
- 9/25 David Biton, Christopher Fortner