



Upstate Medical University

*To improve the health of the
communities we serve through
education, biomedical research
and health care.*



May 2019

Curriculum Office Newsletter



Letter from Dean

The Curriculum Office is responsible for managing, coordinating and evaluating the Medical School curriculum. In addition, we provide support to the students, faculty, and administration.



Student, Faculty, Staff and Colleagues:

Spring is here, and summer is just around the corner (although Syracuse doesn't seem to want to let go of the wet and cold temperatures just yet)!

I want to let everyone know about the successful visit we had with the LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) in March. A team of 5 individuals came from March 24-27, and reviewed all the materials our institution provided for them, as well as met with many faculty, staff, administrators, and students during this visit. They gave us a preliminary report on their exit that was extremely positive and promising! The final review will occur at the LCME board meeting, which will not take place until Fall 2019. However, if the findings are upheld, it will mean a full 8 year accreditation for the College of Medicine, with only a few citations that will require reports to the LCME. We want to thank every individual at Upstate who was a part of this process. From the self-study process, through the site visit, hundreds of individuals stepped up to make this a successful visit. I want to especially thank Lisa Phelan, our Director for Accreditation, who really helped us pull it all together!

I also want to let you all know about a change in the Curriculum Office. After 4 years as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education, and 11 years at SUNY Upstate, my family and I have decided to move out of state. It has been a great joy and honor to serve and work with all of you these last few years. I know the curriculum and state of medical education here at Upstate is in great hands. Dean Licinio and Dr. Tom Schwartz (Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education) are actively identifying individual(s) that can take on this role to further medical education here at Upstate.

There are many exciting and innovative changes that the faculty here have been working on, both for the 2019-20 Academic Year, and beyond. I know that Upstate will do amazing things in the coming years!

Dr. Paul Ko
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education



Phase 1

Spring/May 2019

The **MS2's** have wrapped up their year, having taken their shelf exams and are preparing for Step 1. Congratulations to the Class of 2021 for all of your efforts! You will do great in clerkships. Keep your eye out for "Basic Science Backpacks" in each clerkship Blackboard site. Basic Science Backpacks are a collaborative effort between Course/Clerkship Directors, Thread Leaders and the Curriculum Office to help you keep foundational sciences fresh as you begin to tackle patient cases as an MS3.

The **MS1's** are working through their last systems-based unit, Endocrine, Reproductive, as well as final projects and cases for FRM1, P2P and POM1. Congratulations to the Class of 2022 for all of your hard work this year. This is a time to reflect on what you have learned, how you've learned it and how to best prepare yourself for your MS2 year.

Clinical relevance and active learning opportunities continue to pop up in Phase 1! These help students to learn and solidify information in different ways and prepare you better for your clerkship years. Team Based Learning activities were conducted in Spring for both MS1 and MS2 (see pictures below!). In MS1 'Endocrine, Reproductive', Dr. Hopkins (Course Director/Endocrinologist) invited Dr. Chin (Chair of Neurosurgery) and Dr. Klawitter (ED) to assist her during her Pituitary Disease TBL. What an awesome learning environment for our MS1's! Additionally, in 'Gastrointestinal I', Drs. Szyjkowski and Duncan conducted multiple clinical case reviews throughout the unit and brought GI Grand Rounds to the classroom.

Rising MS4's, are the first class to venture through the 'Unified Pre-clerkship' Curriculum. They will be working with MS1 and MS2 classes this Fall as TA's for POM, FRM and in other capacities to help guide underclassmen.

Best of luck to our graduating 4th years!



Phase 1

Updates/Reminders

- ✓ Gateway: The Gateway Exam will be on 5/22 at 9AM. It is composed of 100 questions from the NBME and is a good measure of where you stand in preparation for Step 1 on material from the first year.
- ✓ Reach out to University support for study or wellness concerns – we have many resources.
- ✓ Course Annual Reviews continue on a rolling basis
 - Phase 1 Meetings hold annual reviews of your courses throughout the year. Peer Reviewers and Class Officers are able to provide additional feedback to each unit.

You can find all members of the Curriculum Office in one location now (SET 4508). Deans

- ✓ Ko, Poole, administrative staff for POM, P2P & FRM and other Curriculum Office Staff.

Please stop by if you have any questions!

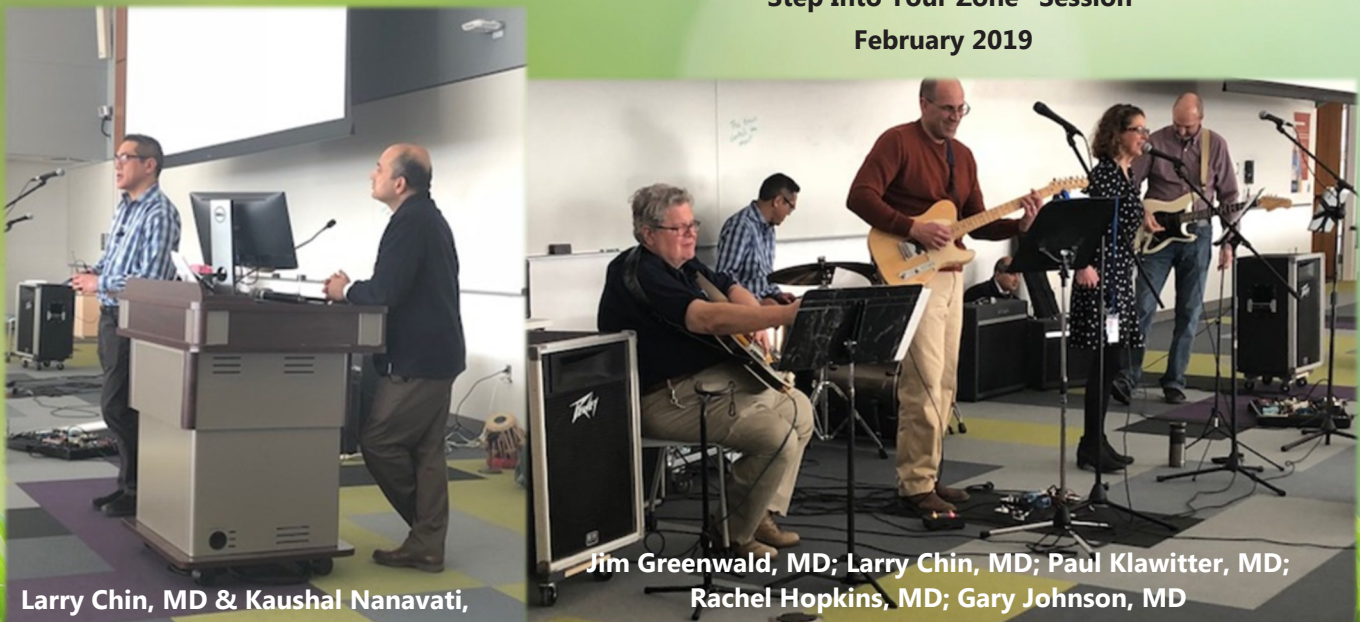
Tom Poole, PhD

Assistant Dean, Foundational Sciences

Sarah McNamara, MS

Curriculum Director, Phase 1

MS2 Step 1 Prep "Step Into Your Zone" Session February 2019



Larry Chin, MD & Kaushal Nanavati,

Jim Greenwald, MD; Larry Chin, MD; Paul Klawitter, MD;
Rachel Hopkins, MD; Gary Johnson, MD

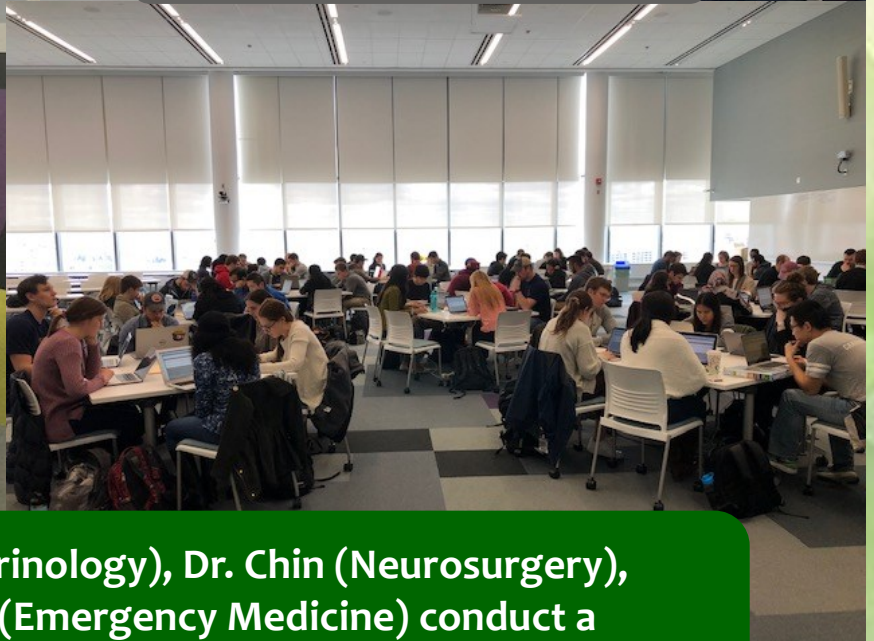
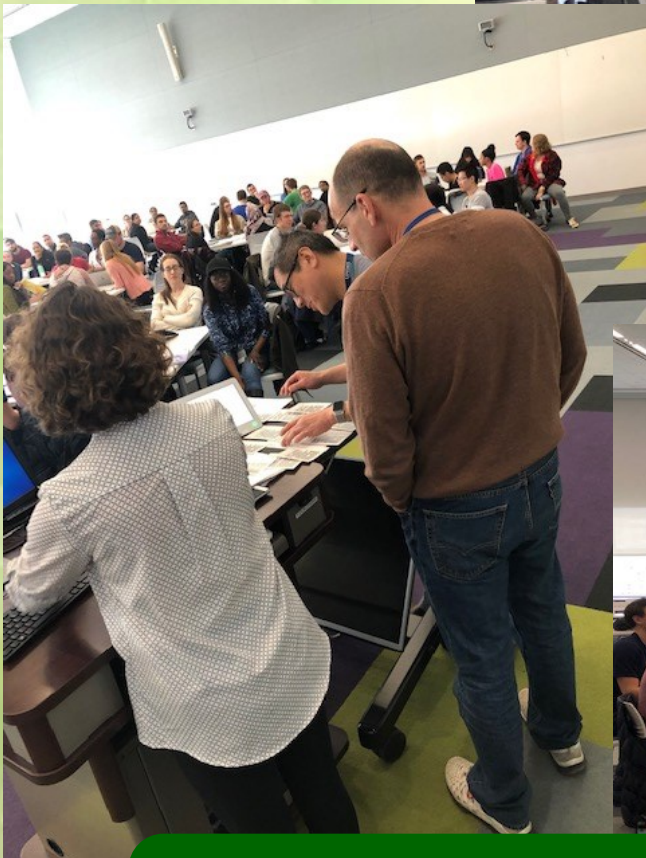
TBL Session

May 2019

Team
Based
Learning!



Active Learning!



Dr. Hopkins (Endocrinology), Dr. Chin (Neurosurgery),
and Dr. Klawitter (Emergency Medicine) conduct a
Pituitary Disease TBL session for MS1 Students



Phase 2

Dear class of 2021,

As the academic year comes to an end, we congratulate our graduating 4th year medical students and wish you all the best of luck! No matter where you are next, you're always welcome to reach out to us at Upstate. We'd be happy for you just to check in to let us know how you're doing!

Welcome to the class of 2021 starting their MS3 year at the end of May! This year, the Binghamton and Syracuse campuses will both be starting their third year on the same day, and both campuses will be having orientation during the same week (May 20 – 24). Orientation will go over the experience of MS3 year and how to adjust from the lecture hall to clinical rotations. This should be a helpful week for students and will include peer sessions with advice from students who have already been through MS3 year! Students also will have several sessions that will allow them to complete their required training for patient care, including ACLS, MRI safety, sterile technique, and more!

Congratulations to the rising MS4 students on finishing the third year clerkships! We wish you luck on your clinical skills exams and the 4th year of medical school! We at the curriculum office are still here for you throughout the 4th year!

Additionally, our new simulation center in the Health Sciences Library in Syracuse is nearing the final stages of being ready for use! It's really an amazing facility, and we plan to start using it this year in the clerkships!

Thanks everyone, and keep up the good work!

Matt Mason, MD
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences

From the Exam Coordinator

The MS1 year is approaching the end of your year. You are preparing for the Gateway exam; this will be in the **NBME testing platform**. Be on the lookout for information on how to make sure you have a smooth exam by preparing your **laptop**. Please note that you must take the exam on a laptop; iPads and tablets without hard drives cannot be used.

The MS2 year is completed and you are in the process of transitioning into your MS3 year. Please be on the lookout for items from our office regarding your agenda, group breakouts and other requirements. Your MS3 year is going to be an exciting year. Please remember to prepare yourself. You will be on the floors for full shifts and then will need to make time to study daily. You will also want to make time for eating healthy, exercise, relaxing and socializing. That's a lot to do. Please make sure to set up a schedule to keep yourself healthy, happy and wise.

For the MS3s heading into the MS4 year, good luck with your AI's, electives and interview trail. Please let me know if any of you need assistance with hospital credentials at the VA or Crouse.

For the MS4s, congratulations on your successes at Upstate. Thank you for the memories that you have given me and the smiles we have had. I wish you all the best in your life adventures. I look forward to hearing from you.

Colleen Denniston
Exam and Evaluation Coordinator
Setnor Hall, Room 4508
dennistc@upstate.edu

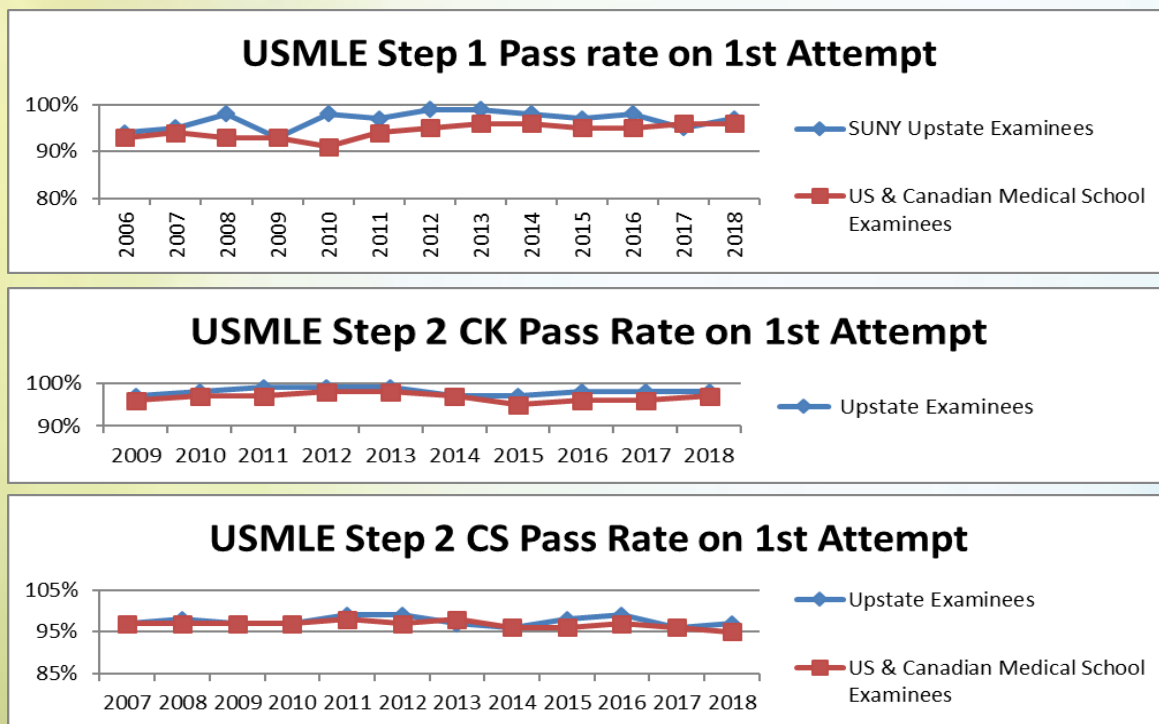
Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research

Greetings from The Evaluation, Assessment & Research Office!

We want to extend a HUGE congratulations to the class of 2019 on their 100% match rate! Thanks to students completing our Pre-Match survey during March into Residency, we are also able to report that 95% of students matched into their top choice specialty and 84.2% matched into one of their top three programs!

We also want to thank students from all years who participated in our focus groups over the past few months. We know how busy you are but your insights are an invaluable part of continuous quality improvement here at Upstate. We've shared our reports from these focus groups with COM leadership for their review. We've also sent along the long list of faculty and staff who were mentioned during the focus group as having gone above and beyond for students.

Step 1 and Step 2 CK & CS Pass rates have been recently released and we are pleased to announce that Upstate's pass rate for students taking the exam for the first time is above the national average on all three tests. Best of luck to students currently studying for these exams!



Please stop by our offices if you have any questions or suggestions regarding student evaluations and assessment. We're located in the Weiskotten Addition, near the Starbucks café. Rooms 1187 and 1183.

We look forward to working with you!

Dr. Lauren Germain, PhD & Josie Suser, MS

From the Office of Accreditation and Compliance

Accreditation Self-Study Process Updates

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Our Middle States Self-Study process culminated in a site visit last fall, from November 11-14, 2018.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education reviewed the site team's findings and has found Upstate Medical University to be compliant with all 7 accreditation standards!

Thank you to everyone involved in the process! Our next site visit will be in 2027-2028.

Liaison Committee on Higher Education (LCME)

The LCME site visit took place from March 24-27, 2019. We had over 200 faculty, staff, and students involved in the self-study and visit. Thank you to everyone who helped with this process!

The preliminary results from the site review team were very promising with only 8 of the 93 elements found to not be in compliance or in compliance but with a need for monitoring. The LCME will review the site team's findings in October, and the College of Medicine will receive notification of our accreditation renewal status after that time.

We will update you all as soon as that information is provided!

After almost 34 years of service here at Upstate Medical University, I have decided to retire. It has been a wonderful experience working here and with all of you!! After some time off, I will return on a part-time basis working on some special projects in the Office of Academic Affairs.

*Warmest regards,
Lisa Phelan*



LCME Element 12.8: Emergency Preparedness and Blood/Fluid Exposure Policies

I. Immediately treat exposure site

- A. Wash the exposed skin with soap and water.
- B. Flush exposed mucus membranes with water.
- C. Flush eyes with at least 500 ml of water or normal saline for at least 3–5 minutes.
- D. Do not apply disinfectants, antibiotics, or caustic agents to the wound.
- E. Proceed to the Emergency Department if wound suturing or other first aid is needed.

II. Initiate follow-up without delay

- A. Weekdays between 7:30 AM – 4 PM, call Employee/Student Health (ESH) at (315) 464-4260.
- B. After hours, weekends, and holidays
 - 1. Proceed to the Emergency Department at that clinical site.
 - 2. Proceed to the closest Emergency Department if none at the facility.
 - 3. Notify Student Health of the exposure by leaving a voicemail or calling the next day of business.

For the complete policy and procedure information, go to the website:
<https://upstate.ellucid.com/documents/view/3042>

LCME Element 5.7: Security, Student Safety, and Disaster Preparedness

A medical school ensures that adequate security systems are in place at all locations and publishes policies and procedures to ensure student safety and to address emergency and disaster preparedness.

SUNY Upstate Campus Disaster Plan
<https://upstate.ellucid.com/documents/view/1468>

The following is a listing of the University's crime prevention programs and projects:

- Escort Service: Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone to any on campus location.
- Personal Security: Crime prevention presentations are made available on a regular basis at new student and employee orientations. Custom presentations or surveys are made at the request of any group.
- Emergency Telephone: Emergency telephones and call boxes, linked directly to the University
- Police, are located throughout the campus.
- Architectural Design: The University Police Department has significant input into the design of all new and renovated campus facilities as related to physical and electronic security systems.
- Facilities Surveys: The University Police Department and the Personal Safety Committee conduct periodic surveys of exterior lighting, exterior doors and campus grounds. Results of these surveys are forwarded to Physical Plant for prompt action.
- Rape Awareness: Rape awareness education and prevention presentations are made annually to the campus community.
- Organized participative Safety and Security committees also operate at the university for the benefit of all students, staff and visitors.
- Further information may be found at <http://www.upstate.edu/universitypolice/about/reports.php>

AAMC Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) Completion Rates

As of Monday, April 25, 2019, the current response rate to the 2019 AAMC Medical School Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) for Upstate Medical University was as follows:

- Completed 90.9% (n=140)
- In Progress 0% (n=0)
- Not Started 9.1% (n=14)

The GQ is a national questionnaire administered by the AAMC annually to graduating medical students. The results of this questionnaire are used to inform decision-making in the College of Medicine.

We value your feedback!



STUDENTS MEET DEAN LICINIO'S CHALLENGE!!

Dean Licinio authorized \$1,000 to be deposited into the Class of 2019 account if at least 75% of the class completed the GQ by March 1. When 90% completed the survey by Match Day, an additional \$500 was to be deposited into their account.



Gold Star and Commendation Form Reminders

Commendation Forms are accessible in MedHub for faculty interested in acknowledging students that go above and beyond the call of duty!

“Gold Star” Reports can be filled out by students, faculty, or staff to nominate those who demonstrate exemplary professional behaviors or contribute to a positive learning environment. Nominations can be made here:

<http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/support/rights/mistreatment.php>

Assistant Professor, Sherrie Hale, in the Department of Cell & Developmental Biology:

- *"Dr. Hale goes above and beyond to support students in the gross anatomy lab. She stays after to help out and will even come in on her free time to ensure that we all know how to identify structures. Outside of her vast knowledge base, she is unselfish, welcoming, and always cheerful. It is truly uplifting to be around Dr. Hale. She is an invaluable resource for us as students, and I believe it deserves to be recognized."*
- *"Dr. Hale consistently goes above and beyond to help her students master gross anatomy. She is very kind and always willing to meet with students after hours outside of scheduled lab periods to review structures. Dr. Hale will explain a concept until the student understands completely and acknowledges the different learning styles of students. If she is not 100% sure about an answer to our question, she is humble enough to find the answer. Dr. Hale exemplifies the standard we should set for our educators."*
- *"Dr. Hale goes above and beyond to explain difficult concepts to us. She is so patient when we don't understand something. She also finds different ways to teach something if we don't understand it at the start. She is so knowledgeable in the lab, and will go over the structures with us while tying the big picture along with it so it would make sense and stick with us. She also doesn't mind repeating stuff with us so we can learn it. Thank you so much Dr. Hale for being so awesome!"*
- *"Even though there was not a video on blackboard for the posterior mediastinum dissection, Dr. Hale took the time to find one online to show us. When the volume for the video didn't work, Dr. Hale narrated it herself to help us recognize the structures we needed to identify in lab. Whenever I interact with Dr. Hale, she is encouraging and makes me feel good about the hard work I am putting in as a medical student."*
- *"Dr Hale has been an immense help and very conscious of the difficulties students are facing in gross lab. In particular, she took the time to walk through a complete dissection with my group to help us understand what we were looking at."*

Assistant Professor, Dr. Joseph Nimeh, in the Department of Pediatrics:

"Dr. Nimeh went above and beyond in teaching our second year POM course. His excitement and dedication to helping us master and hone-in on our physical exam and oral presentation skills was inspiring and motivating. Dr. Nimeh always acted in a professional and respectful manner throughout the course and is a model for all POM instructors."

Curriculum Office Staff, Kelly Donovan, MaKeever Clarke, and Barb Hinds:

"When a scheduling snafu left no standardized patients for a four-hour hands-on abdominal ultrasound scanning session, Kelly, Makeever, and Barb stepped in and volunteered to be a "patient" so that none of the students would miss an opportunity to miss this valuable experience. They truly went above and beyond to help solve what felt like at the time to be an insurmountable issue. I am very grateful to be able to work with such problem solvers."

Gold Star comments continued

PGY-1 Resident, Dr. Elizabeth Zorovich, in the Department of Emergency Medicine:

"Dr. Zorovich had just discharged a patient who came to the ED for chest pain after an extensive workup with a diagnosis of anxiety/panic attack. The patient's mother then called, demanding information regarding the visit, and attempted to bully Dr. Zorovich with claims that she was paying for the visit and threatening Dr. Zorovich with complaints to administration. Additionally, the patient belittled Dr. Zorovich and again threatened administrative complaints for not prescribing the patient benzodiazepines, despite there being no valid medical reason to do so. Throughout this encounter, Dr. Zorovich maintained her composure, and respectfully explained to the mother that we could not share information with her regarding his medical care without approval by her son due to his age. Dr. Zorovich patiently listened to the barrage of complaints, particularly the threats and demands for benzodiazepines, and while never revealing any confidential information, explained that he had been evaluated and treated appropriately, and he could come in at any time for evaluation and treatment. Dr. Zorovich's maintenance of her professional demeanor and patient confidentiality in the face of intense hostility that went on for an extended period of time is commendable, and I wanted to draw attention to it."

Additional positive feedback from students through course/clerkship evaluations and direct feedback to the Associate Dean of UME:

PGY-3 Resident, Dr. Adam Butler, in the Department of Surgery:

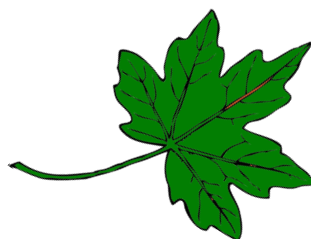
"Dr. Bulter went above and beyond my expectations for a resident. He took time away from his busy schedule to offer teaching sessions almost daily on topics of my choice, and engaged me in educational opportunities at every turn throughout the day. He encouraged confidence when I was being "pimped" by attendings, and really showed a strong interest in my education during my time on peds surgery. Couldn't have asked for a better, more patient and welcoming senior resident."

Associate Professor, Dr. Katarzyna Dudycz-Sulicz, in the Department of Pediatrics at the Binghamton Campus:

"Dr. Sulicz is one of the best receptors I've had- she made me feel like part of the team, gave me feedback, helped me identify topics I need to spend more time on, and quizzed me on some of the basics so I could see how I was doing. She was very patient with me, always asked if I had questions, and is a wonderful role model for patient and family interpersonal skills."

Associate Professor, Dr. Ahmed El Dokla, in the Department of Neurology:

"Phenomenal teacher! He created a very open and positive learning environment, which made my experience on service with him very pleasant."





The AOA junior elections were held on March 26, 2019.

Please join me in congratulating the newly elected members from the Class of 2020!

Ian Boor (B)	Maksim Kletsel
Marissa Dale	Urvi Patel (B)
Bronwyn Finney	Matthew Protas
Taylor Freetly (B)	Samuel Regan
Taylor Furst	Rebecca Sager
John Kelly (B)	Jared Sweeney
John Kennedy	

(B) – Binghamton Campus

Patty Gooden

AOA Administrator, Upstate Gamma Chapter