

U P S T A T E update

A publication for the SUNY Upstate Medical University community

FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2009

NIH awards \$3.2 million for SUNY Upstate weight loss intervention study

SUNY Upstate Medical University researchers are conducting a \$3.2 million NIH-funded study to determine if patients at increased risk for diabetes can successfully lose weight and increase activity levels through a medication-free weight loss program that is delivered by telephone by primary care providers. This study also tests the effectiveness of individual telephone interventions vs. group telephone interventions.

The five-year study "Weight Loss in Primary Care: A Translation of the Diabetes Prevention Program," or locally titled "The Support, Health Information, Nutrition and Exercise" (SHINE) program, is funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

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Ruth Weinstock, MD, PhD, left, discusses the SHINE study with Health Commissioner Richard Daines, MD, right, during his visit to the Joslin Diabetes Center Feb. 10. Listening in are, from left, Pauline Frazier of the state health department;

ment; Paula Trief, PhD, principal investigator with Weinstock on the SHINE study; Richard Heerkens of the state health department; Ruth Franklin, a personal activity nutrition leader; and Phillip S. Schaengold, JD, of University Hospital.

Francesca Pignoni, PhD, to join SUNY Upstate as an Empire Scholar

SUNY Upstate Medical University has recruited Francesca Pignoni, PhD, to join its team of internationally recognized scientists who are studying the complex processes involved in eye formation and function to better understand the causes of blinding conditions and vision disorders.

Dr. Pignoni, who holds NIH-funded grants totaling more than \$3 million, will begin to establish her SUNY Upstate laboratory in June and will join the faculty full-time in September.

She joins SUNY Upstate through the State University of New York Empire Innovation Program that is aimed at

attracting the country's most talented faculty researchers to SUNY campuses.

Currently on faculty at Harvard Medical School in Boston, she will hold a primary appointment at SUNY Upstate as an Empire Scholar in the Department of Ophthalmology as well as adjunct appointments in SUNY Upstate's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Department of Neuroscience and Physiology.

"Dr. Pignoni's addition as an Empire Scholar to our already strong vision research program will enhance a nationally and internationally top tier

vision research effort at SUNY Upstate," said Steven R. Goodman, PhD, vice president for research and dean of the SUNY Upstate's College of Graduate Studies.

"Dr. Pignoni has demonstrated excellence, originality and productivity in her area of study," said Robert Barlow, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Vision Research in the Department of Ophthalmology. "Her research holds promise in better understanding the causes of retinal diseases, such as macular degeneration and related conditions."

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C A M P U S B R I E F S

Pediatric patient Patrick Carman will sign his CD "Broadway Dreams—My Gift of Songs" to benefit the the Golisano Children's Hospital at Upstate Feb. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the second floor University Hospital lobby. The CD will be on sale for \$15 and is also available in select P&C stores.

A "Seasoned Nurses Luncheon," sponsored by University Hospital's Nursing Recruitment Office, will be held Feb. 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in 1328B University Hospital. Staff members will be recommended by their managers to attend this luncheon that will be offered part focus group, part open forum.

Applications for the 2009-2010 Grant Funding Program of Advocates for Upstate Medical University will be accepted beginning Feb. 24 until 4 p.m. on March 24. The grants, which total \$2,500 for each approved project, are meant to improve patient care and satisfaction, support medical education and enhance community health. Applicants will be notified of decisions made by the Grant Funding Committee, led by Treasurer Joan Thorn and Assistant Treasurer Nancy Chepenuk, in May. Funding will be available June 1. Application and guidelines are available by visiting upstate.edu/advocates/grant_funding.php, or by calling Jennifer Emmi at 464-5610.

Combating sex trafficking by taking a perpetrator-focused approach will be discussed by Donna Hughes, PhD, an international researcher on trafficking of women and children, Feb. 25, at 4:30 p.m. in the Medical Alumni Auditorium at Weiskotten Hall. The lecture is presented as the Third Annual E. Gregory Keating Global Health Lecture Series. Dr. Hughes is the Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Rhode Island. A reception will follow the lecture. For more information, e-mail weiszj@upstate.edu; hsuea@upstate.edu; or scordind@upstate.edu.

SUNY Upstate's College of Graduate Studies will sponsor its 2009 PhD Admissions Program Recruitment Days Feb. 26 and 27 and March 29 and 30. For additional information, contact Dr. Daniel Ts'o at 464-5531, e-mail tsod@upstate.edu or Sandi Tillotson at 464-7655, e-mail tillotss@upstate.edu.

The risks and rewards of bariatric surgery will be discussed at "Inside Upstate," a program of Advocates for Upstate Medical University Feb. 26, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Institute for Human Performance, 505 Irving Ave., Syracuse. Registration, including hors d'oeuvres, begins 4:45 p.m. The program is free for Advocate members. The fee for non-members is \$10. Call 464-5610 or e-mail advocate@upstate.edu by Feb. 23 to register.

The President's Office announces two awards programs: The President's Employee Recognition Awards program will accept nominations through April 1 for Outstanding Contribution of the Year; Community Service of the Year; Team of the Year; Supervisor of the Year; and Employee of the Year. Award winners will be honored at a reception in May. In addition, outstanding faculty, research and service contributions are celebrated with President's Awards at the Fall Faculty Convocation. The deadline is April 1. Details and submission forms for both award programs can be found at upstate.edu/president/awards.

"Condition Yellow: A Hospital-wide Approach to Emergency Department Overcrowding" is the topic of Nursing Grand Rounds to be presented by Lisa Hoyle, RN, of University Hospital March 5, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in 103 Weiskotten Hall. Grand rounds are open to everyone. No registration is required. Continuing nursing education hours will be available. For more information, call 464-9443, e-mail albanese@upstate.edu or visit upstate.edu/nursing/ngr.

SUNY Upstate will celebrate Bring Your Child to Work Day April 23 with a program that will explore the world of clinical care/nursing and trauma. Participants must be a daughter, son or grandchild of a SUNY Upstate/University Hospital employee. Up to 30 children within each of the following age groups will be accepted: 7-10, 11-14 and 15-17. The deadline to register is March 20. For more information, call Maryann Fields at 464-4773 or Barb Riggall at 464-4964. Program details and required area available by visiting www.upstate.edu/hr/jobs/trauma_kids.php.

Instructor Tony Riposo will offer yoga classes in the East Lounge of the C.A.B., from 5 to 6:15 p.m. on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. The classes are open to SUNY Upstate staff, students and volunteers. The fee is \$60 for the full six-class session or \$12 per class. For more information, contact Dawn Van Dresar at 464-9391 or at vandresd@upstate.edu.

The Ninth Annual Healthcare Career Expo will be held March 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Institute for Human Performance, 505 Irving Ave. Information regarding the new year-long Nursing Residency Program for graduate nurses will be available as well as information about healthcare positions. Interviews will also be conducted. For a list of current opening and to apply online visit upstate.edu/hr/jobs. For more information about Career Expo, call 1-800-464-8668.

To reduce waste, Food and Nutritional Services will replace foam plates with paper plates and plastic dome lids with plastic wrap. Lids will be available at a cost. Customers are encouraged to bring re-useable cups for water and ice. The changes will take place over the next several weeks. Contact Jamie Nicolosi, RD, at 464-4303 with questions.

University Hospital upgrades, expands hyperbaric medicine treatment facility

In a move designed to create enhanced amenities for patients undergoing hyperbaric medical treatment, University Hospital has increased the size of its hospital-based hyperbaric facility from 300 to 1,800 square feet, and added patient consult and treatment and dressing rooms, a private patient bathroom and television service for patients while they undergo treatment.

The facility uses two hyperbaric chambers to deliver 100 percent pure oxygen throughout the body to promote healing.

"Hyperbaric medicine is such an important component to our clinical services that an upgrade was in order to maintain the most patient and family centered care setting possible," said Wendy Merritt, RN, clinical manager for Hyperbaric Services.

Conditions treated with hyperbaric oxygen therapy include: carbon monoxide poisoning; decompression sickness; air or gas embolism; acute anaerobic infections; chronic non-healing wounds; skin grafts and flaps; severe crush injuries; exceptional blood loss anemia (when religious beliefs or

an inability to cross-match blood make transfusion impractical); and late effect injuries from radiation therapy.

While other area hospitals may have hyperbaric medicine programs, University Hospital is the only facility that provides 24-hour critical care coverage between New York City and Buffalo. That designation has brought patients to University Hospital for hyperbaric medicine treatment from areas all across the state, including Albany, Potsdam, Binghamton, Buffalo, as well as Pennsylvania and Canada. University provides about 1,200 treatments annually.

The nearly \$900,000 yearlong renovation also includes patient waiting room, staff offices and a medical records room.

University Hospital's Hyperbaric Medicine program is accredited with distinction from the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society in New York State as well as the first unit receiving this accreditation with distinction. The unit is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to care for medical emergencies.

John McCabe, M.D., professor and



Photograph by Robert Mescavage

Wendy Merritt, RN, clinical manager for Hyperbaric Services, in the newly renovated and expanded treatment area.

chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, serves as director of Hyperbaric Services. Dr. McCabe recently completed the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine subspecialty examination and is now certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine.

Campus Briefs—continued from page 2

Volunteer mentors are needed for the Syracuse City School District. Mentors are paired with sixth-graders from Beard, Lincoln and Danforth schools and must commit to one hour a week for one year to provide students with support and guidance, involving academics and personal growth. To learn more about the program, contact Sue Stearns, PhD, at 464-8577 or stearnss@upstate.edu.

SUNY Upstate's Mail Center is no longer open Saturdays. The center will remain open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entries of fiction, poetry, memoir, and prose will be accepted through March 13 by

the Center for Bioethics and Humanities (CBH) for the Bruce Dearing Writing Award competition. The competition is open to SUNY Upstate matriculated students, residents, employees, and faculty. The subject matter is open. Winners will be announced and awards presented at a reception April 15. Student winners will receive a monetary award. Faculty/employee winners will receive gift certificates. All submissions receive consideration in CBH's annual journal, *The Healing Muse*. Call 464-5404 for details.

Orders are being accepted for the 13th annual Maple Syrup sale with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Center for Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders.

Prices are: \$43 per gallon; \$24 per half gallon; and \$13 per quart. Payment for the syrup is to be made upon delivery in mid-May. To order or for more information, contact Mandy Trudell at trudella@upstate.edu or 464-6133.

March 20 is the deadline to submit artwork for SUNY Upstate's On My Own Time art show to be held in April at the Health Sciences Library. Contact Olivia Maggio at maggioj@upstate.edu for more information.

Photographs and mixed media by Nicole Parker are on display during the month of February at SUNY Upstate's Art Gallery at the Health Sciences Library.

Alcohol exposure in womb affects booze behavior, SUNY Upstate study finds

Rats whose mothers were fed alcohol during pregnancy are more attracted to the smell of liquor during puberty, a SUNY Upstate Medical University study shows. Researchers writing in BioMed Central's open access journal *Behavioral and Brain Functions* have shown that rats exposed during gestation find the smell of alcohol on another rat's breath during adolescence more attractive than animals with no prior fetal exposure.

SUNY Upstate Professor Steven Youngtob, PhD, led a team of researchers who investigated the social and behavioral effects of fetal ethanol exposure in adolescent and adult rats. "The findings by Amber Eade in my lab reveal that fetal ethanol exposure influences adolescent reexposure, in part, by promoting interactions with intoxicated peers. These results highlight an important relationship between fetal and adolescent experiences that appears essential to the progressive development of alcohol abuse," Dr. Youngtob said.

Fetal ethanol experience is believed to train the developing sense of smell to



Steven Youngtob

find ethanol odor more attractive. The authors describe how, in both rats and humans, fetal exposure changes how the odor and flavor of ethanol are perceived.

They write, "Such learning may be a

fundamental feature of all mammalian species because it is important (from a survival standpoint) for the pre-weanling animal to accept and be attracted to the food sources consumed by the mother." In this study the authors found that rats unexposed to ethanol were significantly less likely to follow an intoxicated peer than those with gestational experience.

The authors also found that the behavioral effects of fetal ethanol were not seen in otherwise unexposed adult rats. They say that this shows adolescence is a key time for perpetuating fetal experiences. "Such a proposition is clinically relevant since, in humans, adolescence is a key transition point for emergent patterns of alcohol abuse," Dr. Youngtob said.

Speculating further on this study's implications for human problem drinking, Dr. Youngtob added, "Within the context of 'at risk' adolescents, prior exposure to ethanol may, among other things, worsen the consequences of alcohol related social interaction by increasing teenagers' propensity to engage in such settings."

SUNY Upstate receives \$50,000 grant to support childhood cancer research

SUNY Upstate Medical University and Irene Cherrick, MD, of the Department of Pediatrics, have been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising money for childhood cancer research.

SUNY Upstate was one of 28 institutions to receive funding as part of St. Baldrick's Fall grants that totaled more than \$2.4 million.

"With the challenges of continuing to strive to perform research in the current economic state of affairs, the St. Baldrick's grant allows institutions this opportunity," said Dr. Cherrick, associate professor of pediatrics, Division of Hematology/Oncology and principal investigator for SUNY

Upstate Medical University for the Children's Oncology Group.

"These grants are appropriated for institutions that remain dedicated to the mission of curing childhood cancer, despite the continued cutbacks in federal funding," Dr. Cherrick said. "With our recent turnover in our two positions for clinical research associates (CRAs) as well as our outpatient nursing staff, this grant will allow education of our new staff for this goal. It will also provide salary support for a CRA position, the bread and butter of children's cancer research. We are indebted to the St. Baldrick's Foundation for the funds for this most important objective."



Irene Cherrick

Weight loss study—continued from page 1

(NIDDK). SUNY Upstate principal investigators are Paula Trief, PhD, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and medicine, and Ruth Weinstock, MD, PhD, division chief of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism in the Department of Medicine and director of the Joslin Diabetes Center.

"This significant study to be conducted at one of New York's premier Diabetes Centers of Excellence will test an exciting new primary care based approach to preventing obesity and the diabetes that frequently accompanies obesity," said New York State Health Commissioner Richard F. Daines, MD, who visited the Joslin Center Feb. 10 to be updated on the study.

According to Dr. Weinstock, obesity is related to the rising incidence of type 2 diabetes and interventions leading to sustained weight loss are needed.

"Most weight loss research studies have been implemented in academic centers under tightly controlled conditions with limited follow-up," said Dr. Weinstock. "The need for the translation of successful interventions, such as the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), is clear. Since patients have regular contact with their primary care physicians, an intervention that can be delivered through primary care practices could have better long-term outcomes."

The weight loss intervention program translates the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) as its model for a successful weight loss intervention. The DPP was a major multicenter clinical research study that found, in part, that participants who lost a modest amount of weight through dietary changes and increased physical activity sharply reduced their chances of developing diabetes.

"No programs to date have successfully adapted the DPP to a long-term primary care-based intervention," said Dr. Trief.

The SUNY Upstate study is a randomized controlled trial of two active treatment interventions based on

the DPP model that will be delivered at four primary care sites.

The specific aims are to evaluate the effects of two interventions that are translations of the DPP Lifestyle Balance program and are delivered through primary care practices, on the primary medical outcome of weight loss, secondary medical outcomes of blood pressure, fasting lipids and glycemia, and psychosocial outcomes of health behaviors and health-related quality of life. The secondary aims are

"This significant study will test an exciting new primary care based approach to preventing obesity and the diabetes that frequently accompanies obesity"

*Richard F. Daines, MD
New York State Health Commissioner*

to determine whether the DPP translation is more effective and/or cost effective if delivered in a group format.

Study participants are men and women aged 18 years or older who are being recruited from four primary care sites: University Internists in Syracuse, Oneida Healthcare Center, Pulaski Health Center and the Syracuse Community Health Center. There are two active treatment groups, both based on the DPP Lifestyle Balance Program.

Participants work with educators from their primary care provider's practice, including nurses, nutritionists and other specialties, and also with weight loss "coaches."

During the first year, in one group, the educator will present the 16 DPP topics, such as strategies for healthy eating and increased physical activity, during phone calls, weekly for the first five weeks, monthly thereafter. The coach will also make monthly phone contacts to promote adherence to these behavioral weight loss strategies. Contact will decrease to monthly in year two and, in year three, there will be no contact arranged by study staff.

In the second group, the educator will facilitate group conference calls, weekly for the first five weeks, monthly thereafter, to present the DPP material and foster peer support. The coach will also conduct monthly group phone contacts. A second year of continued contact is included.

"The study is significant because a primary care based, telephone weight loss intervention will be able to reach more people, may be more effective, and could be easily adopted by primary care physicians, helping them help their patients lose weight successfully and maintain their weight loss," said Dr. Trief. "Interventions leading to sustained weight loss are needed to improve the public health and reverse the rise in diabetes, its cardiovascular complications and other obesity-related illnesses."

Commissioner Daines noted that more than 1.1 million New Yorkers, or nearly eight percent of the population, are diagnosed with diabetes and thousands more are living with undiagnosed diabetes.

"Our best hope of slowing and eventually reversing the current obesity and diabetes epidemic is the use of effective preventive techniques like those being used at the Joslin Center. To help support these efforts, Governor Paterson included new Medicaid funding in this year's state budget to compensate diabetes educators for providing diabetes education, counseling and self-management techniques to patients," Dr. Daines added.

R O U N D S



Katherine M. Mitchell, RN, of Nursing Support Services Administration at SUNY Upstate, with, from left, Bill Sansbury and Rich Pedula of Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network.

SUNY Upstate Medical University and the **Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network** were awarded the Organ Donation Medal of Honor for the second year in a row at the Fourth National Learning Congress, held Oct. 23 and 24 in Nashville. They received the distinction for their collaborative to achieve a 75 percent organ donation rate for a consecutive 12 month period, from April 4, 2007, to March 31, 2008. The National Learning Congress is presented by the United States Department of Health and Human Services-Health Resources and Services Administration and the Organ Donation and Transplantation Alliance in an effort to increase donation and transplantation rates. The goal of the National Learning Congress is to exchange ideas and establish national goals for Organ Donation.

Michael E. Zuber, PhD, assistant professor of ophthalmology and adjunct assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, presented "Pluripotent Stem Cells Shown to Generate New Retinal Cells Necessary for Vision" at the Neuroscience 2008 meeting Nov. 17, 2008, in Washington, D.C. Visit <http://www.rpbusa.org/rpb> for more information about this research.



Michael Zuber

Several SUNY Upstate faculty members and residents presented at the 59th Annual Post-Graduate Review Course in Ophthalmology Nov. 21 and 22 at the Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center at Oncenter. The meeting, co-sponsored by SUNY Upstate's Office of Continuing Medical Education, addressed current issues, trends, and research findings related to a variety of ocular diseases. Faculty members who presented include: **Robert B. Barlow, PhD**, **Thomas A. Bersani, MD**, **Anthony F. DeVincentis, III, MD**, **G. Robert Hampton, MD**, **Melissa W. Ko, MD**, **Stephen W. Merriam, MD**, **Brian P. Rieger, PhD**, **Bryan K. Rutledge, MD**, **Robert L. Slavens, MD**, **Robert W. Weisenthal, MD**, **Thomas R. Welch, MD**, and **Leslie D. Woodcock Jr., MD**. Ophthalmology residents **Jane C. Pan, MD**, and **P. Emmett Hurley, MD**, also presented.

Robert B. Barlow, PhD, professor of ophthalmology, has been selected by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) for inclusion in the association's first class of ARVO Fellows. Dr. Barlow will receive Silver Fellow (FARVO) status for his individual accomplishments, leadership and contributions to the association. He will be inducted at the ARVO annual meeting, to be held May 3 through 7 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. In addition, Dr. Barlow also visited the multi-age classroom of Miranda Hine at the New School in Syracuse Dec. 3 to talk to the children about his research studies.

Bryant Carruth, MD, first-year resident in the Department of Ophthalmology, was elected resident representative to the Executive Council of the Onondaga County Medical Society.

Ann E. Barker-Griffith, M.D., associate professor of ophthalmology, has been appointed as director of the newly-renovated Eye Pathology Lab in the Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Barker-Griffith succeeds **Barbara W. Streeten, MD**, who retired from the Departments of Ophthalmology and

Pathology Oct. 31. Dr. Streeten is now a professor emeritus. The appointment was made by **John A. Hoepner, MD**, professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology. The new lab is located at 2137 Weiskotten Hall and Dr. Barker-Griffith's office is located at 2135 Weiskotten Hall.



Ann Barker-Griffith

James L. Knoll, IV, MD., published two articles in November as guest columnist for the *Journal of Psychiatric Practice*. The articles addressed suicide and post hoc psychiatric/psychological assessment of manner of death. Dr. Knoll is director of forensic psychiatry and associate professor of psychiatry.

Rosanne Thomas, administrative assistant II, in the Department of Surgery, has achieved a Maintenance of Certification from the National Board for Certification of Training Administrators of Graduate Medical Education (TAGME) programs. The certification is valid for five years.

Theresa Gagnon, RN, BSN, has been named director of the Office of Risk Management after serving as interim director since August 2008. Gagnon joined SUNY Upstate in 1982 and has been member of the Risk Management Department for more than 19 years. The Risk Management program enhances the safety of patients, visitors, and employees through risk detection, evaluation, and prevention.



Theresa Gagnon

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Dr. Pignoni—continued from page 1

One objective of Dr. Pignoni's research is to understand how the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) is specified and how it contributes to the differentiation and growth of the retina. The RPE plays a central role in retinal physiology by forming the outer blood-retinal barrier and supporting the function of photoreceptors. RPE dysfunction is a contributing factor in a number of degenerative eye diseases.

Her current focus is on the study of the Microphthalmia (Mitf) transcription factor, a major player in the formation of an RPE in mouse. She is collaborating with Dr. E. Steingrímsson of the University of Iceland, coordinating efforts by studying the Mitf gene in both mouse and fly. Dr. Pignoni's labo-

ratory is using the *Drosophila* (fruit fly) model system that is widely used to dissect the function of genes and pathways involved in human disease.

Currently, Dr. Pignoni is assistant professor of ophthalmology (genetics) at Harvard Medical School and research associate at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. She earned her bachelor of science degree in biology at Indiana University and her PhD in biology at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is presently a permanent member of the Anterior Eye Diseases Study Section that reviews grants proposals for the National Institutes of Health and contributes as editor or ad hoc reviewer to several scientific journals.

The Department of Ophthalmology,

chaired by professor John Hoepner, MD, is home to the Center for Vision Research (CVR), a leading center for research on major eye diseases and vision disorders. Its emphasis is to understand the cell and molecular biology underlying the most prevalent blinding diseases. The center has acquired a total of \$8.5 million in funding from governmental agencies and private foundations and has developed collaborative research efforts with leading scientists at 17 universities in the United States, England, Spain and Japan. CVR research scientists have made important discoveries on the possible causes of retinitis pigmentosa, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.

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Rev. Terry Culbertson offered the invocation at the Vera House Gala Ball to benefit services to victims of domestic violence Dec. 6 at the Hotel Syracuse. Rev. Culbertson is manager of Spiritual Care, clinical pastoral education supervisor and clinical assistant professor of medicine.

The **Center for Spiritual Care** has joined the membership of the Society of Arts in Healthcare through a grant from Advocates for Upstate Medical University. The society is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing arts as integral to healthcare. Membership was possible

Pediatric Chaplain **Rev. Louise Tallman Shepard** participated as a Reiki practitioner in a Retreat for Caregivers Dec. 12 at Stella Maris Retreat Center, in Skaneateles.

The **Center for Spiritual Care's pediatric chaplaincy program** received a \$7,500 grant from the Wilbert Foundation for 2009 to fund clergy continuing education and support staff Reiki training in pediatric spiritual care. This grant is awarded to only 16 hospitals in the country.

Sandra St. Germain, RN, BSN, has been appointed as director of Utilization Management for University Hospital. She will also serve as the liaison between University Hospital and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. St. Germain joined the Utilization Management department in 2001. Her prior experience includes more than 22 years in emergency room nursing.

The **Pathology Residency Program** at SUNY Upstate Medical University has been awarded a five-year accreditation through 2013 by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The five-year accreditation is the longest accreditation period offered by the ACGME. The accreditation comes after a rigorous review of how SUNY Upstate trains physicians for careers in pathology. The accreditation process requires institutions to complete and submit an extensive written report. An on-site review of the institution also is required.

Members of SUNY Upstate's Center for Development, Behavior, and Genetics will present at the First Spina Bifida World Congress, to be held March 16 to 19 in Orlando. Presenters are: **Greg Liptak, MD**, who

will offer the keynote address; **Kimberlee Garver, SW**; **Mary MacBlane, NP**; **Judith Hodge, RN**; **Nienke Dosa, MD**; **Asure Mahunik**; and **Jennifer Kennedy**.

Dan Dippel, manager of Duplicating and Printing Services, presented a lecture at Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts' Spring Symposium Feb. 18 in the Shemin Auditorium, Shaffer Art Building. A 2000 graduate of Syracuse University, Dippel is best known on the Upstate campus for creating the "three kids" that are the signature of our Golisano Children's Hospital.

**Join Team Upstate
at the Heart Walk
April 18**

**visit
www.upstate.edu/
heartwalk for
more information**

LECTURES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Register for workshops at www3.upstate.edu/hr/training, click Management Development.

HealthLink Seminars are free, unless otherwise noted, and are open to all. To register, call HealthConnections at 464-8668 or visit upstate.edu/healthlink.

Feb. 18. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Classroom D, Rm. 1301 Institute for Human Performance.

Workshop. "E-Compass System—Press-Ganey" will discuss Press Ganey's internet-based performance analysis and improvement tool called e-Compass.

Feb. 18. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink/ Oasis, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

HealthLink Seminar. "The ABC's of an Eating Disorder" will discuss the types of eating disorders, contributing risk factors and resources available locally.

Feb. 19, March 5 and 19. 1 to 3 p.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. "Upstate Stars Recognition Program" will discuss the benefits of recognition, innovative ways to recognize employees and recognition tools.

Feb. 23. 12:15 p.m. 3430 University Hospital.

Visiting Professor in Radiology. "Myocardial Perfusion Imaging 2009" will be presented by H. William Strauss, MD, of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Medical College of Cornell University. CME credits available. Sponsored by Department of Radiology and Office of Continuing Medical Education.

Feb. 23. 5:30 p.m. 3430 University Hospital.

Visiting Professor in Radiology. "Imaging Atherosclerosis" will be presented by H. William Strauss, MD, of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Medical College of Cornell University. CME credits available. Sponsored by Department of

Radiology and Office of Continuing Medical Education.

Feb. 24. (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.); March 10 (Noon to 8 p.m.) 3507 Setnor Academic Building.

Workshop. "Workplace Violence: CPI Non-Violent Crisis Intervention" will teach how to respond effectively to the warning signs that someone is beginning to lose control and address how staff can deal with their own stress, anxieties and emotions when confronted with challenging situations.

Feb. 24. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink/ Oasis, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

HealthLink Seminar. "Cancer 101" will discuss general concepts about cancer, using examples of specific cancers to highlight ongoing research approaches to management.

Feb. 25. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink/ Oasis, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

HealthLink Seminar. "Medication Safety for Children and Grandchildren" will include recent changes to the use and availability of cough/cold products in young children; how to make a home safe for children; considerations for safe storage and administration of medications to children, including interpretation of dosing instructions and measuring medication doses.

Feb. 26. 10:30 a.m. to noon. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. "Ergonomics Injury Prevention in Healthcare for Managers" will provide an overview of the basics of ergonomics and ergonomic injury prevention in healthcare facilities, including the causes of work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the healthcare environment.

March 4. 1 to 2 p.m. 1307D University Hospital.

Webinar. "Challenging Microbes—Practice Guidance for Healthcare

Environmental Cleaning" will describe the epidemiology of challenging microbes as well as present the ES tools for safeguarding healthcare facilities. Contact Gayle Hyde at hydeg@upstate.edu to register.

March 5. 9 to 11 a.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. "Understanding Compliance at University Hospital for Managers" will focus on why wUniversity Hospital has a compliance program, the details of the program and what is needed to maintain institutional compliance.

March 10. 9 to 11 a.m. 1328B University Hospital.

Workshop. "What Every Supervisor Needs to Know About Employee Absences" will discuss when and how employees request a leave of absence, the importance of understanding the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and how to report work-related injuries or illnesses.

March 11. 9 to 11 a.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. "Quality Management and Outcomes Measurement" will provide managers with a general overview of University Hospital's Organizational Quality, Management & Improvement Plan.

March 13. 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Syracuse Stage, 820 E. Genesee St., Syracuse.

Sixth Annual Seymour Fisher Memorial Workshop. "Suicidal Behavior and Comorbid Disorders: A Life-span Treatment Perspective." Presenter Donald Meichenbaum, PhD, of the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, will use case presentations to better understand the phenomenology of depressed and suicidal patients. The value of a Constructive Narrative perspective will be highlighted. For more information, call 464-3104 or e-mail thorpl@upstate.edu.

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Local hospitals present first-ever Healthcare Quality Forum April 22

University Hospital has joined Community General Hospital, Crouse Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, to offer area healthcare professionals an opportunity to hear some of the leading thinkers on healthcare quality during the first-ever Syracuse Healthcare Quality Forum April 22.

The event will run from 1 to 6:30 p.m. at the Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center at the Oncenter, 800 S. Salina Street. Continuing Medical Education credits will be offered.

"It's a testament to the importance of delivering quality healthcare that

Syracuse's four hospitals would join together to make this opportunity possible," said Colleen O'Leary, MD, professor of anesthesiology at SUNY Upstate Medical University and interim medical director of University Hospital. "Participation in the forum will be rewarding for all as it will examine the very latest thinking on one of the most important topics within the medical community."

Presenters include Terry Merryman, RN, MSN, FACHE, chief quality officer at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, who will speak on "Transformation of Care at the Bedside"; Harvey Fineberg, MD, PhD,

president of the Institute of Medicine, who will discuss "Patient Safety and Quality the Unfinished Agenda"; David B. Nash, MD, MBA, dean of Jefferson School of Population Health at Thomas Jefferson University, who will address "Leadership for Quality and Safety"; and veteran NASA astronaut James Bagian, MD, PE, a human factors and patient safety expert, who will speak on "Getting Stellar Clinical Results; It's Not Rocket Science."

The forum is free and open to members of the healthcare community. For more information and to register, visit www.shqf.org

Child Life presents training for Special Needs Advocacy Partners March 24

A free training session for the SUNY Upstate community on the Special Needs Advocacy Partners (SNAP) program that addresses the unique challenges children with autism, severe developmental delay and mental retardation face during medical treatment will be held March 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Marley Education

Center, 765 Irving Ave.

The training will be conducted by certified Child Life Specialist Gail Klaymann, MSeD, from Cincinnati Children's Hospital, where the SNAP program was developed.

University Hospital is only the second hospital in the United States to have received this specialized training.

The session is sponsored by the Child Life Program and the Department of Pediatrics.

To register for the SNAP training, contact Kara Judd Litera at Juddlitk@upstate.edu.

Conferences—continued from page 8

March 19. 1 to 2 p.m. 6703a University Hospital.

Workshop. "Computer Skills for PSLs" will teach GroupWise, Microsoft Word, and Internet skills. Open to any level of computer ability. PSLs have first consideration, but all are welcome. Call Lauren Brady 464-4407 to arrange for evening classes.

March 19. 2 to 4 p.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. "Diversity Management in Healthcare" explores the historical context for understanding diversity and looks at the legal, moral, and business cases for valuing diversity in a health-

care environment. Best practices are identified and staff competencies are generated at the conclusion of the course.

March 25. 9 to 11 a.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. "Hiring for CSEA - Represented Employees" will discuss hiring for Civil Service positions, including how to review appropriate paperwork, documentation, and Civil Service requirements.

March 26. 9 to 11:30 a.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. "Fundamentals of PEF and CSEA Performance Evaluations" will review the purpose, process and

timelines associated with developing PEF and CSEA Performance Programs and Performance Evaluations.

March 31. 2 to 4:30 p.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. "UUP Performance Management Fundamentals" will review the purpose, process, and timelines associated with developing UUP Performance Programs and Performance Evaluations in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Anesthesiology Grand

Rounds. 6:45 to 8 a.m.
Medical Alumni Aud., Wsk.
Hall.

Otolaryngology Grand

Rounds. 7 to 8 a.m. 6500
University Hospital.

Surgery Morbidity/ Mortality

Conference. 7 to 8 a.m.
2231 Wsk. Hall.

Orthopedic Grand Rounds.

"ACL Reconstruction:
Single vs. Double Bundle
Repair." Leslie Donnelly,
MD. 8 to 9 a.m. 6500
University Hospital.

Pediatric Grand Rounds.

"Physiology and Medical
Complications Associated
with High Altitude."
Thomas Welch, MD,
Upstate Medical University.
9:15 to 10:30 a.m. 6500
University Hospital.

Workshop.

"E-Compass
System—Press-Ganey."
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Classroom D, 1301
Institute for Human
Performance.

Pathology Grand Rounds.

"Detection of TMRSS2
Gene Deletions and
Translocations in
Carcinoma, Intraepithelial
Neoplasia and Normal
Epithelium of the Prostate
by Direct Fluorescence In
Situ Hybridization."
Shengle Zhang, MD,
Upstate Medical University.
Noon. 6717 University
Hospital.

Creative Writing Workshop.

Noon to 1 p.m. Suite 406
Crouse Physicians Office
Bldg, 725 Irving Ave.

• Rev. Weez's Storytime.

Noon. Interfaith Chapel,
University Hospital.

Elizabeth Blackwell Day

Lecture. Jane Brody, New
York Times. Noon. Ninth
Floor Auditorium, Wsk.
Hall.

Book Signing Reception.

"Jane Brody's Guide to the
Great Beyond." 1 p.m.
Doust Board Room, Ninth
Floor, Wsk. Hall.

Center for Children's Health

Policy Seminar. Jody Sima,
MD, Upstate Medical
University. 3 to 4 p.m. 9299
Wsk. Hall.

Biochemistry and Molecular

**Biology Department Research
Report.** "Role of Vaccinia
Virus Dual Specificity
Phosphatase VHI in
Nuclear Import." 4 to 5
p.m. 9299 Wsk. Hall.

Campus Activities Governing

Board Meeting. 5:30 p.m.
115 C.A.B.

HealthLink Seminar. "The
ABC's of an Eating
Disorder." Kathleen Deters-
Hayes, Upstate Medical
University. 6 to 7 p.m.
Oasis/HealthLink,
ShoppingTown Mall,
DeWitt.

Film. "The Boy in the
Striped Pajamas." 7:30
p.m. 103 Wsk. Hall. Free
with SUNY Upstate ID.
Guests: \$2.

Thursday, Feb. 19

SUNY Upstate New Employee

Orientation. 7 a.m. to 3:30
p.m. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Medicine Grand Rounds. 8:30
to 9:30 a.m. 1159 Wsk.
Hall.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds.

"Clinical Supervision of
Psychotherapy." Janine M.
Bernard, PhD, Syracuse
University. 12:30 to 2 p.m.
PBS Building, 713 Harrison
St. Syracuse.

Workshop. "Upstate Stars
Recognition Program." 1 to
3 p.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

WebCAIS for Travel RNs.

1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Classroom D, Institute for
Human Performance.
Contact Barb Bennett 464-
9267 or e-mail bennettb
@upstate.edu with ques-
tions.

Vascular Conference. 5 p.m.
8800 University Hospital.

Friday, Feb. 20

SUNY Upstate New Employee

Orientation. 7 a.m. to noon.
East Lounge, C.A.B.

**Obstetrics/Gynecology Grand
Rounds.** "Domestic and

Violence Update." Randi
Bregman, Vera House. 7:30
p.m. Marley Education Ctr.

Seasoned Nurses Luncheon.

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
1328B University Hospital.

Clinical Hands-on Practice

Orientation (CHOP). Noon to
3:30 p.m. East Lounge,
C.A.B.

• **Mass.** Noon. Interfaith
Chapel, University
Hospital.

Upstate Comedy with

Michelle Buteau. Happy
Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Performance: 6:15 p.m.
Entertainment is inappro-
priate for children under 18
years. \$3 at the door.
C.A.B.

"Coming Together Dinner."

6:30 p.m. Ninth Floor
Cafeteria, Wsk. Hall. Black
History Month Event.

Comedy Performance.

"Michelle Buteau." Happy
Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Performance: 6:15 p.m. \$3
at the door. Not appro-
priate for children under
18.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Snowtubing at Greek Peak

Ski Resort. Sponsored by
C.A.B. Advance ticket
required. Call 464-8829 for
more information.

• **Mass.** 4 p.m. Interfaith
Chapel, University
Hospital.

Sunday, Feb. 22

HealthLink on Air. 9 to 10
a.m. WSYR-570AM.

• **Mass.** Noon. Interfaith
Chapel, University
Hospital.

Film. "The Boy in the
Striped Pajamas." 2 p.m.
103 Wsk. Hall. Free with
SUNY Upstate ID. Guests:
\$2.

Monday, Feb. 23

• **Mass.** Noon. Interfaith
Chapel, University
Hospital.

**Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology Graduate Student
Seminar.** "Light-dependent

Localization and
Redistribution of Recoverin
in Xenopus rod
Photoreceptors." Mehdi
Najafi, Upstate Medical
University. Noon. 2231
Wsk. Hall.

Yoga Class. 5 to 6:15 p.m.
East Lounge, C.A.B. Call
Dawn at 464-9391 for
more information.

Visiting Professor in

Radiology Lecture. "Myocardial Perfusion
Imaging 2009." H. William
Strauss, MD, Memorial
Sloan-Kettering Cancer
Center. 12:15 p.m. 3430
University Hospital.

Visiting Professor in

Radiology Lecture. "Imaging
Atherosclerosis." H.
William Strauss, MD,
Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center. 5:30 p.m.
3430 University Hospital.

College of Medicine Alumni

Phonathon. Dinner: 6 p.m.
Calling: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Atrium, Setnor Academic
Bldg.

HealthLink Seminar.

"Community Smoking
Cessation Class." (part of a
series). 6 to 7 p.m.
Oasis/HealthLink,
ShoppingTown Mall. Free.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Workshop. "Workplace
Violence: CPI Non-Violent
Crisis Intervention." 7:30
a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 3507
Setnor Academic Bldg.

Management Forum. 9:45
a.m. to noon. 6500
University Hospital.

Faculty Development

Seminar. "Audience
Response System." Joseph
Stein, PhD, and Joseph
Smith, Upstate Medical
University. Noon to 1 p.m.
318 Health Sciences
Library.

• Weekly Prayer Service.

Noon. Interfaith Chapel,
University Hospital.

**Visiting Professor in
Radiology.** "Nuclear
Medicine Cases/Board
Review." H. William

Strauss, MD, Memorial
Sloan-Kettering Cancer
Center. 12:15 p.m. 3430
University Hospital.

Vocera. 1 to 3 p.m. Institute
for Human Performance,
Classroom C. Contact
Derek Hawkins at 464-
1400 or at
hawkinsd@upstate.edu with
questions.

Spiritual Fitness. 3 p.m. 2N,
PM & R Dayroom,
University Hospital.

Infectious Diseases

Conference. "Laboratory
Detection of Clostridium
Difficile." Scott Riddell,
PhD, MtD, Upstate Medical
University. 4 p.m. 304
Crouse Physician's Office
Bldg., Irving Avenue,
Syracuse.

HealthLink Seminar.

"Cancer 101." Sara Jo
Grettlein, MD, Upstate
Medical University. 6 to 7
p.m. Oasis/HealthLink,
ShoppingTown Mall,
DeWitt.

Coffeehouse.

Songwriter/performer
Matthew Brookshire. 8
p.m. West Lounge, C.A.B.
Free.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Anesthesiology Grand

Rounds. 6:45 to 8 a.m.
Medical Alumni Aud., Wsk.
Hall.

Otolaryngology Grand

Rounds. 7 to 8 a.m. 6500
University Hospital.

Surgery Morbidity/ Mortality

Conference. 7 to 8 a.m.
2231 Wsk. Hall.

WebCAIS/Groupwise Class

(Licensed). 7:30 a.m. to
noon. Classroom D,
Institute for Human
Performance.

Neuroscience Grand Rounds.

"A Neurosurgical Chimera:
Brain Aneurysm Therapy."
Eric M. Deshaies, MD,
Upstate Medical University.
8 to 9 a.m. 103 Wsk. Hall.

Orthopedic Grand Rounds.

"The MCL of the Knee."

continued on page 10

Calendar—continued from page 11

Matthew Scuderi, MD, Upstate Medical University. 8 to 9 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Surgery Grand Rounds. 8 to 9 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

Pediatric Grand Rounds. “Essential Elements of Effective Instruction.” James Peacock, Upstate Medical University. 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Pathology Grand Rounds. Fangming Deng, MD, PhD, SomaSanyal, MD, Conrado Zanardi, MD, Upstate Medical University. Noon. 6717 University Hospital.

• **Rev. Weez’s Storytime.** See 2/18 listing.

Vocera. See 2/24 listing.

Third Annual E. Gregory Keating Global Health Lecture Series. “Combating Sex Trafficking: The Perpetrator-focused Approach.” Donna Hughes, University of Rhode Island. 4:30 p.m. Medical Alumni Aud., Wsk. Hall. E-mail weiszj@upstate.edu for details.

College of Medicine Alumni Phonathon. See 2/23 listing.

HealthLink Seminar. “Medication Safety for Children and Grandchildren.” Luke Probst, PharmD, Upstate Medical University. 6 to 7 p.m. Oasis/HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Thursday, Feb. 26

PHD Admissions Program Recruitment Days 2009. Sponsored by College of Graduate Studies.

Nursing Services Orientation (NSO). (PSC, monitor techs, psych therapy techs). 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (RN, LPN, GN, GPN, CT, UST). 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 1328b University Hospital.

Medicine Grand Rounds. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 1159 Wsk. Hall.

Workshop. “Ergonomics Injury Prevention in Healthcare.” 10:30 a.m. to noon. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “Understanding Psychotherapy Research: PTSD Treatment as an Example.” Paula P. Schurr, PhD, Dartmouth Medical School. 12:30 to 2 p.m. PBS Building, 713 Harrison St. Syracuse.

Vocera. See 2/24 listing.

Inside Upstate. “Bariatric Surgery: Decision, Risks and Rewards.” Casey Hammerle, MC, RN, Upstate Medical University. Patricia Wright, patient.

Vascular Conference. 5 p.m. 8800 University Hospital.

Friday, Feb. 27

PHD Admissions Program Recruitment Days 2009. See 2/26 listing.

WebCAIS/Groupwise Class (Non-licensed). 7:30 a.m. to noon. Classroom D, Institute for Human Performance.

Obstetrics/Gynecology Grand Rounds. “The Other Incontinence.” Masood Naim, MD, Upstate Medical University. 7:30 p.m. Marley Education Ctr.

• **Mass.** See 2/20 listing.

Student National Medical Association Dinner Dance. 6 p.m. Lobby, C.A.B. Black History Month activity.

Saturday, Feb. 28

• **Mass.** See 2/21 listing.

Sunday, March 1

Healthlink onAir. See 2/22 listing.

• **Mass.** See 2/22 listing.

Monday, March 2

• **Mass.** See 2/23 listing.

Yoga Class. 5 to 6:15 p.m. East Lounge, C.A.B.

HealthLink Seminar. See 2/23 listing.

Tuesday, March 3

• **Weekly Prayer Service.** See 2/24 listing.

Spiritual Fitness. See 2/24 listing.

Infectious Diseases Conference. 4 p.m. 304 Crouse Physician’s Office Bldg., Irving Avenue, Syracuse.

HealthLink Seminar. “Community Smoking Cessation Class.” (part of a series). 6 to 7 p.m. Oasis/HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall. Free.

Wednesday, March 4

Anesthesiology Grand Rounds. 6:45 to 8 a.m. Medical Alumni Aud., Wsk. Hall.

Otolaryngology Grand Rounds. 7 to 8 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Surgery Morbidity/ Mortality Conference. 7 to 8 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

Orthopedic Grand Rounds. 8 to 9 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Neuroscience Grand Rounds. “Clinical Trials in Anterior Horn Cell Disease: What Have We Learned?” Jeremy M. Shefner, MD, PhD, Upstate Medical University. 8 to 9 a.m. 103 Wsk. Hall.

Surgery Grand Rounds. 8 to 9 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

Pediatric Grand Rounds. 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

• **Rev. Weez’s Storytime.** See 2/18 listing.

Webinar. “Challenging Microbes—Practice Guidance for Healthcare Environmental Cleaning.” 1 to 2 p.m. 1307D University Hospital.

Spiritual Care Grand Rounds. 4 to 5:15 p.m. First Floor Conference Room, Setnor Academic Bldg.

Burn Survivors Support Group. 5 to 7 p.m. 6551 University Hospital.

Thursday, Feb. March 5

SUNY Upstate New Employee Orientation. 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Workshop. “Understanding Compliance at University Hospital.” 9 to 11 a.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds. 12:30 to 2 p.m. PBS Building, 713 Harrison St. Syracuse.

Workshop. “Upstate Stars Recognition Program.” 1 to 3 p.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Nursing Grand Rounds. “Condition Yellow: A Hospital-wide Approach to Emergency Department Overcrowding.” Lisa Hoyle, MS, RN, Upstate Medical University. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. 103 Wsk. Hall.

WebCAIS for Travel RNs. See 2/19 listing.

Vascular Conference. 5 p.m. 8800 University Hospital.

Friday, Feb. March 6

SUNY Upstate New Employee Orientation. 7 a.m. to noon. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Obstetrics/Gynecology Grand Rounds. 7:30 p.m. Marley Education Ctr.

Clinical Hands-on Practice Orientation (CHOP). See 2/20 listing.

• **Mass.** See 2/20 listing.

Saturday, March 7

Ninth Annual Healthcare Career Expo. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Institute for Human Performance, 505 Irving Ave., Syracuse.

• **Mass.** See 2/21 listing.

Sunday, March 8

Healthlink on Air. See 2/22 listing.

• **Mass.** See 2/22 listing.

• Broadcast live from the Chapel on in-house Channel 40.

Watch “Upstate Magazine” on Staff ED TV channel 62 by visiting upstate.edu/edcom/upstatemag.

*Upstate Update***Issue:**

**March 18 to April 1
Deadline: March 9**

Issue:

**April 1 to 15
Deadline: March 23**

Issue:

**April 15 to 29
Deadline: April 6**

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Photograph by Richard Whelsky

SUNY Upstate President David R. Smith, MD, and various members of the faculty join SUNY Upstate employees who will serve as team

captains for the American Heart Association's Heart Walk in a group photo taken in the Setnor Academic Building.

SUNY Upstate President David R. Smith, MD, to co-chair Heart Walk

SUNY Upstate Medical University President David R. Smith, MD, has been tapped to serve as co-chair of the American Heart Association's 2009 Heart Walk, one of the premier charity activities in Central New York.

The Heart Walk, to be held this year at Long Branch Park in Liverpool April 18, usually attracts nearly 7,000 participants and raised more than \$650,000 last year.

"It's an honor and a privilege to serve as co-chair for the 2009 Heart Walk," said Dr. Smith.

"The SUNY Upstate family understands all too well the burden heart disease and stroke places on families all across Central New York. The American Heart Association has been a true partner in our mission of improving the health of communities we serve all across this Upstate region by providing generous support for research into curing heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States."

"Dr. Smith was asked to co-chair

this year's event due to the fact that he is a well respected leader for the Central New York community as well as SUNY Upstate Medical University, the largest employer in Syracuse," said Mary Kate Hartmann, director of communications for the American Heart Association, Syracuse Metro Region. "We are thrilled Dr. Smith will help lead this event, during its 25th anniversary year."

Serving as the other co-chair is Smith's colleague, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry President Cornelius P. Murphy, PhD.

Much of the money raised by the Heart Walk remains in Central New York, AHA officials say, and is spent on patient education programs and to fund research related to cardiovascular research.

Some of that research is done right here in Syracuse. SUNY Upstate faculty have been awarded more than \$1.3 million for cardiovascular research from the AHA. Faculty with AHA grants include

Jeffrey Amack, PhD, \$308,000; Mitrea Bogdan Gabriel, \$42,000; Michael F. Princiotta, PhD, \$308,000; Danielle Sliter, \$42,000; Alena Talkachova, PhD, \$260,000; Jianxin Yu, \$42,000; and Christian W. Zemlin, PhD, \$308,000.

Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the United States, with nearly 80 million people currently suffering from some form of heart disease.

To participate in the Heart Walk, members of the SUNY Upstate community should contact their department representatives or Zanette Howe at 464-4263 or visit www.upstate.edu/heartwalk.



This symbol represents **Engaging Excellence**, an initiative to challenge and encourage our employees to create the best workplace possible.