

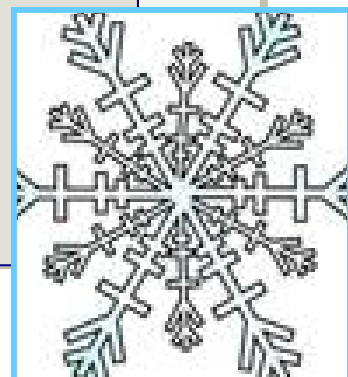
What's Up, Doc?

Department of Medicine

Newsletter

Winter 2013, 9th Issue

Susan DeAngelo, Editor



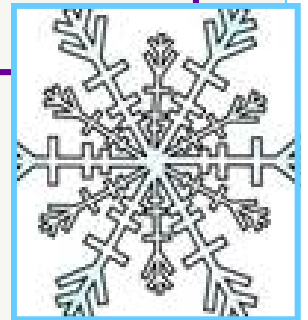


According to Liz Estera in HR-Organizational Training & Development, Dr. Robert Carhart was presented with the Press Ganey award at the DOM Division Chiefs meeting on October 31, 2012.

One trophy is provided on a yearly basis to the MD mentioned by name the most number of times in a positive manner by patients in our inpatient and outpatient Press Ganey patient satisfaction comments reports for the previous year.

This is the second year in a row (2010 & 2011 data) that Dr. Carhart has been mentioned the most number of times in a positive manner by patients on Press Ganey.

Congratulations, Dr. Carhart and please keep up the great work!



Quotable quotes:

Every kind of peaceful cooperation among men is primarily based on mutual trust and only secondarily on institutions such as courts of justice and police.

- Albert Einstein

Dr. Judith Setla, the Medical Director of Hospice of CNY is one of our voluntary faculty and is the wife of our own, Dr. Peter Cronkright. Dr Setla is featured in an article in the November issue of *Syracuse Woman* . To quote her, " A particularly nice part of Hospice work is that we see people from all walks of life."

To read more of Farah F. Jadran's story on Dr Setla go to: www.SYRACUSEWOMANMAG.com and look for the November 2012 edition.

Rheumatology opens office in Homer

Jianghong Yu, M.D. has opened a Rheumatology practice in the Cortland area. She will see Rheumatology patients once day a week in the Homer office of Hematology/ Oncology. If you have patients who live in that area and need Rheumatology services, call (607)749-2640 for an appointment.

We wish Dr "Julie"Yu much success in this new endeavor!





Kudos-Below are some remarks from satisfied patients regarding outpatient care at Upstate.

CARDIOLOGY:

“They put me at ease during my stress test.”

“Excellent staff - Dr. Szombathy outstanding.”

“Everyone on staff was respectful, helpful and courteous. Meg remembered me from my mitral valve repair four years ago.”

“All of the staff are very professional and friendly.”

RHEUMATOLOGY:

“Dr Neupane has explained things to me and has never rushed his time with me.”

“Dr. Andras Perl - a truly wonderful dr. who helped me and is very concerned for patients.”

“Dr. Julie Yu was very easy to understand. She took the time to explain everything I was concerned about, she also made a follow-up call to me for medications and explained in detail so that I was comfortable.”

“Everyone on nursing staff is excellent. Dr. Allam is very thorough & caring.”

“Dr. Allam goes above and beyond. She truly cares about her patients.”

“All of the staff was excellent.”

“Dr Neupane is a “top rate” doctor who always shows his caring nature for me and my problem.”

ADULT MEDICINE:

“I usually have Ralf Bernecker as my nurse and he is excellent. Love his sense of humor and knowledge.”

“Dr. M. Hess is a young, enthusiastic physician. He seems TRULY interested and concerned with my health issues. I feel very confident with his decision about medication and self-help.”

continued



KUDOS, continued...

“Dr. Gary Mitrevolis - very caring person & explains things if you don't understand problem or meds.”

“When I was in the hospital the nurses were very friendly, and at the clinic they're excellent.”

“Ralf the male nurse is very friendly, kind and caring. He always appears to put the patient's needs first. Always enjoy my visit more when he is there. Very special person.”

Never had bad experience. "Thank you for saving my life".

“My experience was wonderful.”

UNIVERSITY GERIATRICIANS:

“Excellent!”

“Dr Bishop is a very caring person.”

JOSLIN DIABETES CENTER:

“I've seen Dr. Izquierdo for the past 17 years, since Joslin opened, and think he's the BEST!”

“Nurse was very nice and went over all meds!”

“Dr. Weinstock always gives undivided attention & thorough explanation.”

From a patient regarding Dr. Mols- “I felt she was very thorough and didn't rush my appointment.”

“Dr Jennifer Kelly was always very thorough and professional in caring for my concerns.”

TRANSPLANT CENTER:

“Lisa in financial aid/reception has gone above and beyond always.”

“Melissa in reception - always has smile on her face!”

“People at registration & information were very helpful.”

“Dr Narsipur is outstanding.”

“Dr Narsipur is optimistic, smart and kind. I am fortunate to be in his care.”





KUDOS, continued...

REGIONAL ONCOLOGY CENTER:

“Doctor Gajra was very pleasant, understanding, highly educated, caring. We are very lucky to have him as our oncology doctor.”

“Dr. Seth is knowledgeable, caring, & compassionate, as are nurses, Julie, Rick, Peggy, Janice.”

“When I have called, someone has gotten right back to me.”

“On Wednesday I will receive my 9th treatment of three days each treatment. They all treat me like I am family. I would not want to be at any other place!”

“Staff is always accommodating if I request an appointment at a certain time.”

“Dr Wright is wonderful. I do cry a lot and he talks to me like I am the only one he is treating. Dr Wright is an angel to me!”


INFUSION CENTER:

“Dr. Jonathan Wright was so understanding and fully explained what I would be going through when I started my chemo treatments at 100 E. Genessee St.”

MEDICINE SUBSPECIALTIES:

“Janet Zimmerman, LPN was very good to me. I wish I had nurse like her all the time.”

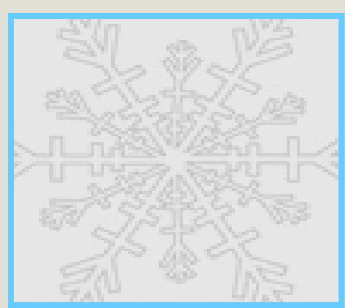




**Dr. Ali Khan joined the faculty on December 21st as a hospitalist in General Internal Medicine.
Dr. Jad Bou-Abdallah joined the Medicine faculty in Gastroenterology.
Welcome to you both and good luck in all your future endeavors in the Department of Medicine!**

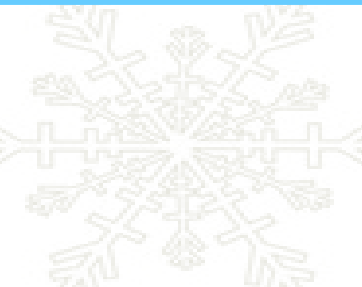


Dr Clay Elliott shared this lovely winter scene taken at Green Lakes state Park (He also shared the cover photo)

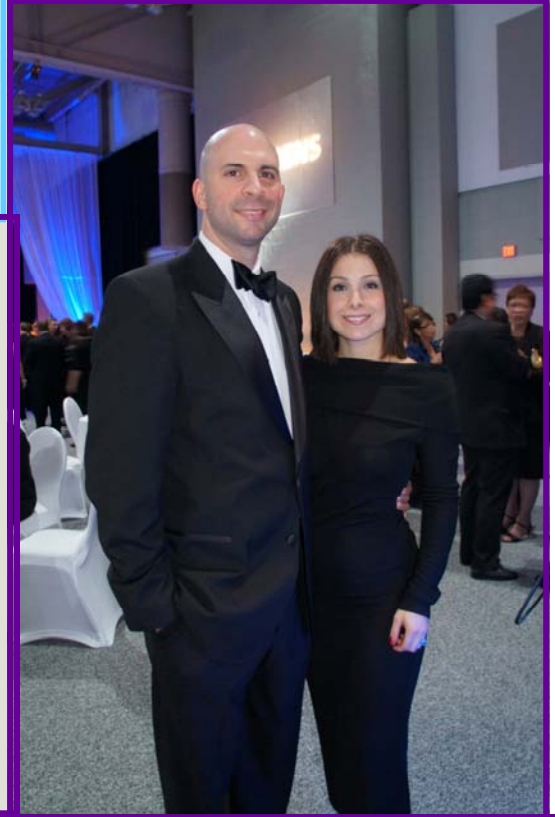


One of Deb Killian's new puppies likes to play in the snow. Doesn't Bella look cute in her new sweater? You've got to love the snow!

The three chiefs

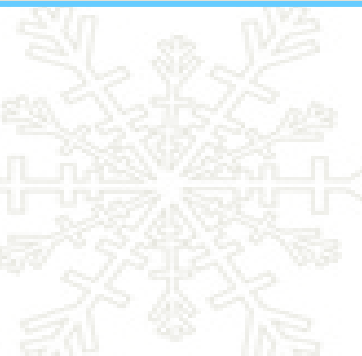


Christine & spouse, Ben



GALA
The chief residents share their thoughts on this year's Gala held Friday, Nov 30, 2012 at the Pirro Convention Center.

"The best part of the event was seeing everyone all dressed up outside of work and spending time with my fantastic co-Chiefs and their significant others", said chief Christine Granato. Chief John Ulahannan commented, "My favorite parts of the night was seeing my girlfriend all dressed up and getting to take her to a fancy event, hanging out with my two awesome co-chiefs outside the hospital and of course shooting crazy pics in the photo booth :)"
Chief Luke Yuhico had this to say: "Best part of the event: Enjoying the wonderful company of such great co-chiefs and their significant others in a social environment outside of the work place. "



John & Shoma

Luke & spouse, Riza



Dr Michael Iannuzzi attended the induction of Ramsay Farah as president of the Onondaga County Medical Society. He was so impressed with the speech Dr Farah gave, that he asked him to share it with the department. Here, in it's entirety, is Dr Ramsay Farah's acceptance speech:

Good evening Dr. Page, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:


First of all I want to thank you, Dr. Page for your tenure this previous year. It is a year that involves considerable resources in terms of time, effort, and energy, but you represented the Society very ably both at the local, State, and National levels. It is a year where we have moved forward, and I will endeavor to carry on this forward momentum along with all of the members of the executive council. Thank you so much for what you have done.

I would also be remiss if I did not give a special thanks to Dr. Bob Dracker, whom you all know, notably as recent past President himself. I would like to thank him for mentoring me and introducing me to the Society, its work, and encouraging me to start the lifelong journey of commitment and participation in our local medical community. I would also like to thank my father, who is also my hero, Dr. Fuad Farah. Dr. Farah, you have inspired me in every aspect of your life – both professionally and on a personal level. Without you I would not be here today. Thanks Dad.

And thank you all for coming tonight and being a part of this annual inaugural dinner for the Medical Society. What an honor and a privilege it is for me and my family, that I am here tonight as the 185 President – that you have allowed me, to be a part of this story. But then again, this is America. A wonderful and complex place – a place that has an extraordinarily rich history, which at its core, is the result of an incredible people – who have embraced my family and I wholeheartedly and without reservation, from the very moment that we arrived here in 1976. This wonderful place is defined by its society, who are among the most welcoming of peoples. And for this, my family and I are truly grateful.

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It seems incredible to me, that we can be a part of this story - which at the local level with the medical society, started on April 4, 1806 when the New York State Senate and State Assembly passed “An Act to Incorporate Medical Societies for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery in the State”. And so eleven physicians and surgeons met on Tuesday, July 1 1806 to establish the Medical Society of the County of Onondaga.¹

I hope you’ll forgive me for looking back a bit, and seeing what this story has to teach us. I was, for better or worse, a history major in college. But beyond this interest of mine, I think it is critical that at certain watershed moments in time, we look back and analyze what happened as a way of illuminating our present situation. After all, the present which has never happened before, is a direct consequence of what was written in the past - and the future, which has many different possibilities, is dependent on what we collectively write together.

It certainly is a watershed moment in the history of American Medicine. On one level, it is a great time to be a physician. Medical science is progressing inexorably to a better place with unbelievable advances. Whether it be through pharmacologic breakthroughs, diagnostic and procedural advancements, or through the possibilities of genetic and biomedical engineering ; never before, as a profession, have we been able to heal as effectively as we do today. On the other hand, our profession is facing many pressures. Medical Malpractice Tort Reform - Electronic Medical Records - Medicare Solvency - the Affordable Health Care Act –these are among a few of the challenges that face our profession and those we serve.

In reality, the organization of medical care cannot be understood with reference solely to medicine or the relationship between doctors and patients. Much as we’d like to think that’s true, it simply isn’t. The development of medical care, like other institutions, takes place within larger fields of power and social structure. ² This has always been true, then and now.

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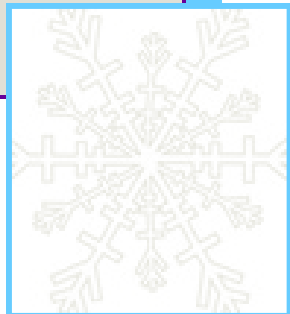
Let's go back to April 4, 1806, that act that incorporated the Medical Society - stipulated into law that "no person shall commence the practice of physic or surgery within any of the Counties of this state until he shall have passed an examination and received a diploma from one of the medical societies..."³. The wording here is not by chance – but a direct attempt to solve some of the ailments of that time. In nineteenth century America, the medical profession was generally weak, divided, insecure in status, unable to control entry into practice, or raise the standard of medical education . 4

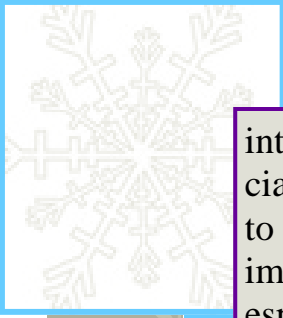
Why was it like that? In large part because of the social and economic structure of America at that time. In pre-industrial America, rural and small town communities endowed their members with a wide range of skills and self-confidence in dealing with their own needs. There was a strong orientation toward self-reliance grounded in the nations' ideals. Consequently, Americans at that time thought the medical profession was not much needed, and under these conditions, the profession could make few inroads. 5

How did physicians surmount these problems? The record is quite clear, that they did this principally by banding together. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the profession (through Societies like this one) gained in cohesiveness and became more effective in asserting its claims. In coming together, a system of standardized education and licensing was established– thereby transmitting institutional authority from one generation to another, and physicians also began adjust their views of their peers, instead of seeing themselves as members of competing medical sects. 6 Slowly but surely, Americans' attitudes towards medicine changed.

This brings us to today: We, too, have formidable socio-economic and political pressures. In our time, the costs of illness and medicine have become critical concerns of governments and political parties because of their implications for social welfare, overall economic efficiency, and political conflict. Some of these external agents are, of course ,mainly

continued






interested in profit. But often, by providing medical care or paying costs associated with it, governments, political parties, employers, to name a few - hope to derive a another sort of benefit: loyalty, good will, gratitude, even the moral imperative. The prospect of these kinds of advantages makes medical care an especially strategic arena of political and economic conflict. 7

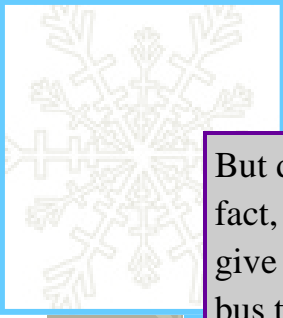
As a consequence, we are now in the midst of a uniquely American process – we are being redefined. I would offer, that one of the things that is unique about America (more so than other nations), is its ability to redefine itself at critical moments in its history. Slavery, Civil Rights, Isolationism – these are all turning points when the nation redefined itself appropriately, indeed, exceptionally. The field of Medicine, is not exempt.

And so, like our forefathers in the early 1800's, we have a choice – we can choose to be atomized, powerless single individuals – passively accepting what the vagaries of the market and governments have to pass down to us - or we can come together, through our organizations – medical societies such as this, in a common solidarity of purpose advocating first and foremost for those who are sick (our patients) and for the nature of the profession that cares for them.

In coming to a close, I'd like to offer another reflection. How best to participate and help mold this change so that the outcome is in everyone's best interest? Well, let's take a look at an inspiring moment in history. While our struggles, are thankfully not of the same magnitude, this moment serves as an illustration of how small but repeated efforts, eventually result in change that matters.

You all know of Rosa Parks, and that on December 1, 1955, after a long day at work at the Montgomery Fair department store, she boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus for home. You also know that she was asked to give up her seat to a white passenger. When asked by the bus driver “Why don't you stand up”, Rosa replied “I don't think I should have to...” In Protest to Rosa's arrest, the Montgomery Bus Boycott began, and a group of community leaders gathered, organized, and elected to their membership a relative newcomer, Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. The rest is indeed history.

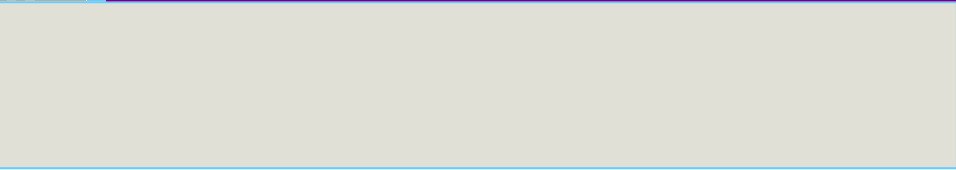





But did you also know that wasn't the first time Rosa Parks refused to stand? In fact, there were many other times, many different occasions when she refused to give up her seat. She was ignored, jostled to the back, and even kicked off the bus time and again. So, why would she keep doing the same thing, over and over, when nothing came of it? I think principally, Rosa was interested in doing the right thing. But like other people of conscience I think she also knew, that her daily efforts, no matter how small and inconsequential they seemed, would add to the daily efforts of thousands of others like her who were similarly nameless and unrecognized and faceless – and that together, these collective efforts would slowly combine and create such a groundswell of support - that finally, when once more she refused to stand, that one extra time would make all the difference. It is only through this kind of persistent effort, from that ground up, that luminaries such as Dr. King have relevance and power. Similarly, it is also only through this kind of daily, persistent effort, that institutions and governments respond.

And so, if history is to serve us as a guide, it is informing us that firstly, American Medicine has repeatedly had intervals of struggle. Secondly, during those intervals we must band together. And thirdly, we must (each one of us) engage in a daily effort to make change. That may mean reading an article or coming to an informational meeting. It may mean paying your medical society dues, or encouraging a colleague to join (numbers count). When necessary, it means responding to an appeal to call or email a local representative, or event joining us for our lobbying day in Albany. In short, it means being *engaged*. The Medical Society is one of the few grassroots organizations that enable us, on a local level, to band together and to do our part on a daily basis. I don't deny that at times, these daily efforts may seem not to make a difference, but in the final analysis, *they are all the difference*.

We have a lot to do this year. We will continue the goals of the strategic plan initiated in 2010. We will continue to actively seek new membership from our local community. We will make every effort to help attract and retain the young physicians who graduate from the area.





We will continue to work with our local elected officials and have our voices heard – whether it be with student debt relief or for enactment of meaningful Tort reform. And of course, the Medical Society will be involved with the inevitable issues that arise from the implementation of the Affordable Care Act – in all of this, we will be proactive and will follow the inspirational values that have guided the best in our society.

So once again, there is a lot to do, but it can be done, as long as we do it together.

Thank you.

Sources:

Gwen E. Kay and Gerald Hoffman, *The History of Local Medical Care. Celebrating physicians past and present 1806-2006* (Omnipress 2008). Pg 1

Paul Starr. *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (Basic Books, Inc. 1982). Pg 8

Gwen E. Kay and Gerald Hoffman, *The History of Local Medical Care. Celebrating physicians past and present 1806-2006* (Omnipress 2008). 1

Paul Starr. *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (Basic Books, Inc. 1982). Pg 7

Paul Starr. *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (Basic Books, Inc. 1982). Pg 18

Paul Starr. *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (Basic Books, Inc. 1982). Pg 18

Paul Starr. *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (Basic Books, Inc. 1982). Pg 8





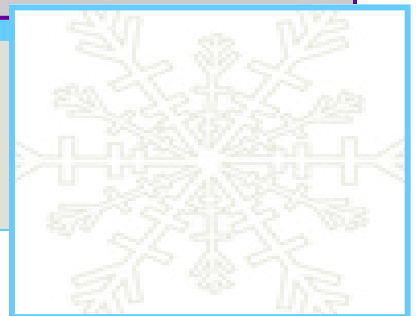
Why Medicine?

On being a physician: by Waleed Javaid, M.D.

When Susan asked me why I chose medicine and then Infectious Diseases (ID) as my career, I started thinking. When I was a medical student, I wasn't sure what field of medicine I was going to pursue. The answer became easy when I heard 'Thank You doctor. I feel much better now'. This was my first patient who I treated and started my journey. I specialized in Infectious Diseases as it provided the mental stimulation and intellectual challenges that I was looking for. Now as Hospital epidemiologist I oversee hospital acquired infections and pursue the goal of making the hospital a safer place for our patients.

This journey is full of satisfaction that no other profession can provide. This is the feeling of fulfillment from helping the ill heal. 'Doing what you like is freedom' my dad told me, 'but liking what you do is success'. I love what I do.

Thank you Dr Javaid for “loving what you do”. The department, and your patients, appreciate your enthusiasm!



Hospice of Central New York's Physician of the Year,

written by Bill Pfohl, Nov. 2, 2012

The 2012 ANITA Award from Hospice of Central New York goes to Dr. Ajeet Gajra, a Hematologist/Oncologist from Syracuse, New York. Dr. Gajra is the Director of Hematology/Oncology Fellowship program and is an Associate Professor of Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical Center.

In his nominating letter, he was recognized for his compassion and commitment to his patients. Dr. Gajra was also recognized for his efforts to teach fellow physicians, healthcare professionals and students about the importance of patient understanding and support when facing a life limiting illness. Hospice of Central New York will present the award to Dr. Gajra in a ceremony scheduled for early December.

The Anita Award was established at Hospice in 1998 by friends and family in memory of Anita Stockman. Its purpose is to heighten awareness of the importance of physician communication and support to patients and their families facing life-threatening illness and to promote this understanding among physicians in training.

This award is to be presented to a physician who is attentive to his/her patients, who communicates openly, honestly and sensitively, who respects patient decisions and remains actively involved with the patient in his/her final journey. Letters nominating physicians from the Central New York community were curated by Hospice over a two month period between August 19 and October 19, 2012.



Ajeet,

A hearty congratulations go out to you from all of us on being selected as the Hospice "Anita Award" winner this year. This prestigious award is given once a year to a physician known to be providing excellent care for patients with incurable illness. We are all so very proud of you! This award is well deserved/earned for all your efforts making a daily difference in Veteran's and their family's lives. Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do striving for excellence in care!

Thanks,

Joni

Joan M. Mitchell MD
Chief of Medicine
Syracuse VAH



**Faculty Birthday Announcements:
Ring the bells and share the joy!**



**JANUARY: Timothy Endy, Kimberly Gilbert,
Tanya George, Matt Glidden & Robert Lenox**

**FEBRUARY: Hani Alkouri, Kumar Ashutosh,
Sam Benjamin, Timothy Creamer, Teresa Gentile,
Waleed Javaid, Roberto Izquierdo & Birendra Sah**

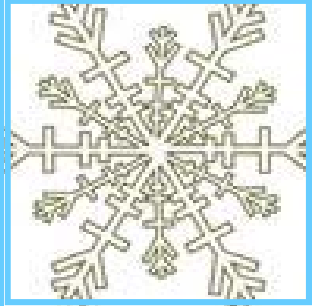
**MARCH: Donald Blair, Catherine Caldicott,
Amit Dhamoon, Sonal Kamalia, Sheila Lemke,
Barbara Mols-Kowalczewski & Hom Neupane**

**On Dec.13, 2012 Patrice Palmieri
wrote:**

**“Today, we received the news from
Dr. Duggan that Dr. Luna Bhatta and
Dr. Apurv Khanna were both
approved for promotion to Associate
Professor by the College of Medicine
Appointments and Promotions
Committee at their meeting last
week.”**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
BOTH OF YOU!**

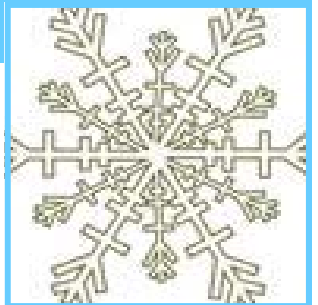




**Our very own
“Holiday Giving Campaign”
EPO/DOM Holiday Giving Campaign
In lieu of gifts to each other, the staff of the
office of Educational Programs and
Department of Medicine decided to continue
the tradition of purchasing gifts and gift cards
for the women and children of Vera House.
The staff at Vera House have asked that we
purchase the gift cards in \$10 increments to**

**allow them to distribute the gift cards to as many of the
mom's and/or children as possible. This is the third year
that the staff decided the best way to celebrate the
holidays is to help those in need. The efforts resulted in
\$120 in gift cards in addition to new coats, hats ,gloves,
books and toys shopped for by Paula Champion and Sally
Melton. According to Paula, these donations “will be very
much appreciated and our gifts will definitely brighten the
holidays for these women and their children.”**

Thank you all for your generosity and kindness!





Endocrinology Club by Chamika Miles (Medical student)

Fascinated by the idea that small molecules could travel such great distances and cause such drastic changes, I had long known that endocrinology was one of the fields I would strongly consider for my medical career.

When I first got the idea to start up the club last semester, the student body government was not accepting any new clubs. This gave us - Ashley Grimshaw, Miruna Carnaru, Rahul Shah, and myself time to plan our vision for the club. Through the Endocrinology Club, we plan to get students excited about the field and to let them know that while diabetes is a large part of practice, it is not the only disorder that endocrinologists see. With this in mind, we sought to develop a closer relationship between the SUNY Upstate student body and the Joslin center, and were thrilled to have Dr. Ruth Weinstock come on as our faculty advisor. Upon doing further research on the Joslin center, I was surprised that such an amazing center with national clout was not more widely known among the students.

So far, the endocrinology club has held its first meeting at which Dr. Weinstock spoke about the field, the Joslin center, and how she got involved in endocrinology. Last week, we went on a tour of the Joslin center, got to meet some staff, and saw for ourselves what a busy and vital operation it truly is.

For the remainder of the school year, we hope to have more lunch time talks - ranging from topics like reproductive endocrinology to osteoporosis - and will be setting up volunteering, shadowing, and research opportunities for Upstate students. We hope to have a very productive first year!





Dr Lehmann Represents!

Dr. David Lehmann represented the SUNY-NYS Department of Health Collaborative for Medicaid as a panel member and guest speaker at the National Resource Center for Academic Detailing's (NaRCAD) annual conference (November 12-13), entitled "The Role of Academic Detailing in Health Care Improvement".

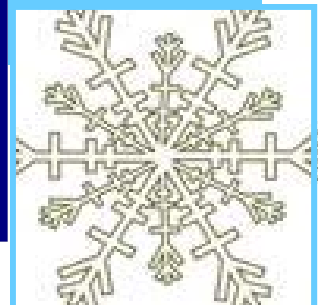
The event, held in Boston, was sponsored by Harvard Medical School, under the direction of Jerry Avorn, MD, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Chief of the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics.

Here's what Dr. Lehmann had to say about the event:

"This invitation-only event was the first annual meeting of leading researchers and clinicians in the field of academic detailing hailing from 15 states, Australia, Canada, and Europe.

I presented our New York State experience, representing a partnership between three of the four AMCs within SUNY and the NYSDoH in service to the Medicaid population. The enthusiasm of all participants was palpable with action plans developed for future meetings and planning for future integrative projects."

Congratulations to Christopher Miller, Pharm.D, who was appointed to Clinical Associate Professor at the December meeting of College of Medicine Appointments and Promotions Committee





Take a guess?

Look at the photo below and see if you can guess who it is (note the date in the top left corner of the photo- *Royal Gorge 2000*). The answer will be revealed in the next issue.

