

COMMUNITY CAMPUS TO FEATURE GERIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE

Senior citizens can be challenging patients. Often they have other medical conditions and/or multiple prescriptions that complicate their emergencies. They may agitate or confuse easily, and may have trouble expressing themselves. Often, it's not long before they are back at the hospital because underlying issues weren't addressed. Not only is this inconvenient and costly, it's not the best medicine.

With that in mind, Upstate is creating a new Geriatric Emergency Medicine Unit called GEM Care. The unit, led by emergency physician James Ciaccio, MD is expected to open this summer in a dedicated section of the emergency department at Upstate University Hospital, Community Campus. Proceeds from the 2012 Upstate Gala are helping to fund its development.



James Ciaccio, MD in the area that being transformed into GEM Care at Upstate's Community Campus.

GEM Care will be characterized by a calm, measured approach to care in a quiet environment. Clocks will have larger, more visible numbers. Handrails will line the walls, floors will be non-skid, paint colors will be soothing, and mattresses will be thicker. Most important, staff working in the unit will be specially trained to treat patients 65+, address their unique sociological and psychological needs—and the concerns of their families—and ultimately make their emergency stays as stress-free as possible. ■

DRUG TRIAL LOOKS TO EXTEND LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH ADVANCED KIDNEY CANCER

Chemotherapy used to be the only option for people with advanced kidney cancer, the chemicals attacking the cancer cells along with the body's healthy cells. A more targeted therapy was designed to zero in on the cancer cells, but its long-term results are not great.

"The targeted therapy was an improvement over chemotherapy, but it certainly had its own limitations," says Gennady Bratslavsky, MD, who chairs Upstate's Urology Department and directs the Prostate Cancer Program.

He leads a trial at Upstate that offers patients a vaccine made just for them, designed to enlist their bodies' immune systems in the cancer fight. "The theory is that if we were to train the body's own immune system to recognize the cancerous

cells, we could get a much more effective killing of the cancer cells," he says.

Bratslavsky's trial is part of an international, multi-institutional study of patients with metastatic kidney cancer. Patients who join the trial will undergo surgery, have their tumors analyzed, and then be placed in one of two groups. Both groups of patients will receive state-of-the-art therapy, and one group will also receive this new vaccine.

Upstate is one of the first sites in the United States to offer this trial, along with the hope it provides for the patients.

Learn more by calling
Upstate Urology at
315-464-1500. ■

**Please Post in
Patient Areas**



DUGGAN ASSUMES NEW ROLE AS DEAN OF MEDICAL SCHOOL

David Duggan, MD, the new dean of Upstate's medical school, is known among peers as an optimist. He graduated from Upstate in 1979.

He never expected to grow up to become a medical school dean, but then David Duggan, MD was not planning to become a doctor.

He grew up in Syracuse with a father who was a doctor, and he was the only one of six siblings to show any interest in medicine. Still, it wasn't until he was at medical school — at Upstate, class of 1979 — that Duggan was certain of his career path.

"I found medical school to be demanding in some ways, but thoroughly enjoyable," he describes. "I enjoyed learning about how the body works and how it fails and how you can fix it." He also appreciated entering the private worlds of patients to help them through difficult times.

He chose internal medicine, focusing on hematology/oncology, and completed a residency and fellowship at Tufts-New England Medical Center before returning to Upstate in 1985.

He has served as chair of the Department of

Medicine for 15 years and as Upstate University Hospital's quality officer and associate vice president for clinical affairs. In October 2011 he began serving as interim dean and accepted the new appointment as dean in March.

"I'm here because this is my school and my home, and I want to do everything I can to make it better," Duggan says.

Upstate President David Smith, MD says Duggan was the top choice from a national search because "he provides us with a leader, who, as an alumnus, understands the importance of upholding the rich tradition of a solid academic medical program that is leading the way in educating physicians for our communities."

Duggan says, "Our mission is to try to develop the physician workforce that the region needs, to identify bright, capable applicants of high moral standards and character who can become our next generation of doctors — and who are most likely

Continued on page A3

Duggan — Continued from page A2

to stay in Central New York.”

Duggan says he is working on initiatives to identify promising high school students of limited economic means and develop a way of shepherding them through college and into medical school. He’s also leading the revitalization of Upstate’s medical school curriculum so it is more contemporary, more efficient and more integrated. At the same time, Duggan is overseeing efforts to foster multidisciplinary and team-based research so that more faculty members will collaborate with peers in other departments, and he is meeting with provider groups about ways to improve cooperation in the care of patients.

His tasks represent entirely different types of challenges from those he faced during years of

research and patient care. And if you ask him, he’ll admit that he misses patient care — a lot. He had to give that up last year to accommodate an administrative schedule.

In his “Find-a-Doc” video on the Upstate.edu website, Duggan describes his approach to patient care, which may also reveal his managerial style.

He says that he always tries to start with questions about the patient rather than his or her illness. Then he identifies the facts and shares them along with the options. “What distinguishes a good physician and a good team from one that is ordinary,” Duggan says, “is being able to work with people to identify the best course for them — because everybody is different, and everybody deserves a unique approach.” ■

ROCHFORD OVERSEES UNIVERSITY’S RESEARCH OPERATIONS

Rosemary Rochford, PhD has been named vice president for research. Rochford, a member of the Upstate faculty, previously served as chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Her appointment elevates one of Upstate’s key National Institutes of Health-funded researchers to oversee the university’s research operations. Over the past decade, Rochford has received more than \$4 million in NIH funding for her studies on associated lymphomas, malaria and Epstein-Barr virus.

Rochford is a noted expert in the field of endemic Burkitt’s lymphoma, and the role the Epstein-Barr virus plays in the disease, which is the most common childhood cancer in sub-Saharan Africa. The NIH provides funding for Rochford’s research in Kenya, where she has established the Equatorial Africa Children’s Cancer Fund to help children being treated at the Nyanza Provincial Hospital. She also has developed a model to test hemolytic toxicity of anti-malaria drugs resulting in more

than \$1 million in funding from Medicines for Malaria Venture and the Department of Defense.

She joined Upstate in 2003 as an associate professor and became chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in 2007. Rochford’s undergraduate degree is from the University of Maryland, and her doctorate in molecular biology is from the University of California, Irvine. She held post-doctoral fellowships at the University of California, Irvine and the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif.

Rochford succeeds Steven Goodman, PhD, who has served as vice president for research and dean of the College of Graduate Studies since 2008. Goodman remains on the faculty as professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, and pediatrics. ■



Rosemary Rochford, PhD



Richard Cantor, MD, Terry Podolak, RD and Deirdre Neilen, PhD are among the regular guests of Upstate's weekly radio show.



'HEALTHLINK ON AIR' RADIO PROGRAM MOVES TO NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY'S HOUR-LONG 'HEALTHLINK ON AIR' PROGRAM JOINS WRVO'S SUNDAY EVENING LINEUP MAY 26.

WRVO — part of the National Public Radio digital network — can be heard from Cortland to Watertown, and Utica to Geneva. Its station is headquartered on the SUNY Oswego campus. Partnering with Upstate, also part of the State University of New York, allows the two schools to engage in what SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, PhD calls “systemness.”

HealthLink on Air is one way that Upstate educates and informs the Central New York community on matters of health, medicine and science. Since launching in 2006, *HealthLink* has showcased hundreds of experts from the academic medical center, the Syracuse community and beyond, creating a treasure trove of archived interviews (which can be accessed at www.upstate.edu/healthlinkonair)

HealthLink also features regular guest segments, including: Psychologist Rich O’Neill’s “Check Up From the Neck Up,” Dr. Donna Bacchi’s “Public Health Today,” Dr. Derek Cooney’s “What’s Your Emergency?” Bioethics and humanities professor Deirdre Neilen, PhD’s “Healing Muse,” Registered dietitian Terry Podolak’s “Healthy Eats,” and Dr. Richard Cantor’s “Peds to Parents.”

“We are thrilled to make this program available to the WRVO audience and to partner with another SUNY campus,” said Leah Caldwell, interim director of marketing for Upstate. The WRVO station is on the SUNY Oswego campus. Previously *HealthLink* aired Sunday mornings on WSYR FM Newsradio 106.9.

The program’s director is Amber Smith, a veteran newspaper journalist who covered health and medicine for *The Post-Standard* for 23 years before joining Upstate. Linda Cohen serves as host of *HealthLink on Air*, and staff from SUNY Upstate’s Educational Communications and Marketing departments provide audio engineering and other technical services.

Suggestions for *HealthLink on Air* are accepted via email at HLOA@upstate.edu ■

LISTEN Tune in 9 to 10 p.m. Sundays on WRVO:

89.9 FM & HD Oswego/Syracuse;	91.9 FM Utica
90.3 FM & HD2 Syracuse	90.5 FM Cortland
91.7 FM & 99.9 Watertown	90.7 FM Geneva
90.1 FM & 92.3 FM Hamilton	89.9 Norwich

Please Post in Patient Areas



Jeri Bem,
MD, and
David
Halleran,
MD

STUDY SEARCHES FOR BIOMARKERS THAT COULD IDENTIFY COLORECTAL CANCER

Colonoscopy has the undisputed ability to nip cancer in the bud, but many people find the screening unpleasant. Someday, colonoscopy may be replaced by a simple blood or urine test.

A National Cancer Institute study underway at Upstate is looking for biological markers or biomarkers that signal the development of colorectal cancer the way pregnancy hormones signal a baby is growing. Leading the study are associate professors of surgery, Jeri Bem, MD and David Halleran, MD, both of whom are colorectal surgeons.

The concept of using biomarkers to detect cancer is not new, but it is a hot topic among cancer researchers who are examining the potential of both protein and molecular biomarkers. The PSA test is already in use, to measure levels of prostate-specific antigen in men with prostate cancer, and something similar is used to check for ovarian cancer recurrence in women.

What's new with this study being done at Upstate is the search for something in the blood or urine of a healthy person that could be used to reveal the presence of colorectal cancer before symptoms become apparent.

Bem says the potential is exciting, but this study is just the beginning. "This is going to be another small step toward that goal. It's going to take several years before we know what we've achieved and where else we need to focus," he says. The data collected in Syracuse will be included with data from about 5,850 other people in the United States.

"Physicians can intervene and actually prevent the progression to a cancer," Halleran explains. Colorectal cancers begin as benign growths called polyps, which can be removed during colonoscopy. "Colonoscopy gives physicians the chance to be therapeutic as well as diagnostic." ■

TO JOIN THE STUDY

Researchers from Upstate seek at least 100 Central New Yorkers to be involved in a study of biomarkers that may signal colorectal cancer. Participants will be asked for stool, urine and blood samples before undergoing colonoscopy.

Call Upstate Connect: 315-464-4668 for details.

TO BE INVOLVED, A PARTICIPANT MUST:

- be between 50 and 80 years of age,
- have no symptoms of colorectal cancer,
- have no history of colorectal surgery, and
- have no cancer within the last five years.



**Signatures cover
Cancer Center construction beams**

Administrators wanted to involve the community in the building of the Upstate Cancer Center, so what was to be the final beam of the structure was painted white and placed in the hospital lobby. People affected by cancer were invited to sign the beam using colored markers, representing various types of cancer.

Within days, the beam's entire surface was covered in colorful sentiments. So a second beam was brought in – and similarly filled.

Patients and family members spoke at a beam placement ceremony in March, during which the last two beams were lifted into place at the top of the building, which is slated to open in 2014.

At left: Conner Licamele examined a signed beam moments before it was lifted into place at the Upstate Cancer Center ceremony.
At right: Nicholas Larmie was one of hundreds who signed a beam.



UPSTATE ROUND UP

Students live in 'Healthy High Rise'

Geneva Tower, Upstate Medical University's downtown Syracuse residence hall, is the first smoke-free high rise building in upstate New York to be designated as a "Healthy High Rise" by the American Cancer Society.

Healthy High Rise is an American Cancer Society recognition program for multi-unit residential housing in New York and New Jersey that have a smoke-free policy, meaning no one is allowed to smoke anywhere in the building. The program is designed to promote healthier environments, reduce cancer risk, and improve the quality of people's lives by reducing exposure to harmful secondhand smoke seeping into people's homes.

"A key part of Upstate Medical University's mission is to improve the health of the communities we serve. This designation from the American Cancer Society speaks directly to how our actions are doing just that, building healthier communities. This designation shows that we have started that work at home," said Julie White, PhD, Upstate dean of student affairs.

Geneva Tower becomes the first building in upstate New York to earn the designation, joining 14 buildings in the New York City area. The 21-story building, located at 500 Harrison St., is home to more than 180 Upstate students.

Upstate's Comprehensive Epilepsy Center has been re-accredited as level 4 status (the highest level) through the National Association of Epilepsy Centers. Upstate provides comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services (surgical and medical) to patients with uncontrolled seizures, the goal being to achieve complete control or at least a reduction in the frequency of seizures and/or medical side effects in adults and children with intractable epilepsy. Upstate is one of the few hospitals in the country able to offer the latest technologies including laser ablation of epilepsy focus in the treatment of epilepsy.

Lung cancer screening earns designation

Upstate is the only facility in Central New York to be listed by the Lung Cancer Alliance as among the nation's "experienced sites" in offering a comprehensive **Lung Cancer Screening** program. The designation is based on Upstate's adherence to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines for Lung Cancer Screening.

The Lung Cancer Screening Program, launched in fall 2012, is sponsored by the Upstate Cancer Center and Upstate Radiology. It is targeted for people between 55 and 74 who have smoked at least a pack of cigarettes a day for 30 years or two packs a day for 15 years. Individuals who no longer smoke can be screened, but they must have quit smoking within the last 15 years to be eligible. The screening cost is \$235.

For details contact Linda Veit at 315-464-6303. Patients can make appointments directly by calling Upstate Connect at 315-464-8668.

Makhuli honored with library

Upstate's Department of Urology dedicated the Makhuli Urologic Library to Professor Zahi Makhuli, MD, in recognition of his contributions to the Department of Urology at Upstate over the past 50 years. Makhuli started at Upstate in 1963 and has trained more than 100 urology residents. He performed the first renal transplant and the first laparoscopic nephrectomy at Upstate.

Med students channel "New York, New York"

The College of Medicine's incoming class for fall 2012 had a higher percentage of New York residents than the other 12 allopathic medical schools in the state, according to data from the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Upstate received 4,730 applications for admission for the class of 2016. Of the 156 enrolled students, 87.8 percent are from New York state. That percentage bested SUNY Buffalo (82.6 percent), SUNY Downstate (80.5 percent) and SUNY Stony Brook (73.4 percent.)

"This is no accident," said Upstate President David R. Smith, MD. "We have made a concerted effort to attract and enroll New Yorkers over the last seven years. We have an excellent class, and the state has a strong chance of retaining them."

EMS fellowship earns accreditation

The Department of Emergency Medicine's EMS Medicine Fellowship has received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in the first round of programs to be approved by its Residency Review Committee. Only 20 of the 62 programs in existence were granted accreditation in this cycle.

Faculty study FaceTime use in education

Using a \$25,000 SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grant, Upstate is studying the use of the iPad's FaceTime application to observe students in clinical settings.

"We know how convenient and useful FaceTime and the iPad are at connecting families, especially when they are great distances from each other," said Ann Botash, MD, professor of pediatrics and one of the study's principal investigators. "We want to see if the same technology can be helpful in how faculty observe and respond to students as part of the educational process."

Under the study, faculty will use FaceTime on the iPad to observe the student's patient encounter in real time and provide immediate feedback to the student. Once inside the exam room, the student will place the iPad in the corner of the room so that the faculty member, who will be at another location, can observe the student and patient interaction. When the session with student and patient is over, the faculty member can provide the student with immediate feedback, also using the FaceTime application.

About 60 students and faculty are part of the study.

New pediatric chaplain

The Rev. Jane E. Dasher has been appointed full-time pediatric chaplain at the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. Dasher comes from St. Joseph's Campus of Sisters of Charity Hospital in Cheektowaga, where she served as hospital chaplain. Dasher is board certified with the Association of Professional Chaplains and holds the master of divinity degree with honors in pastoral care from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga. She is ordained in the Presbyterian USA Church.

New hospitalists

Joining the Department of Medicine as clinical assistant professors and inpatient hospitalists are **Gaganjot Singh, MD** and **Andrew S. Bauliah, MD**.

Singh received his medical degree from Government Medical College, Patiala, India, and completed a sub-internship in internal medicine at Griffin Hospital, the teaching hospital of the Yale School of Medicine.

Bauliah received his medical degree from Kilpauk Medical College in Madras, India, where he also completed an internship and residency in internal medicine. An additional residency in internal medicine was completed at Rochester General Hospital, where he was chief medical resident. Bauliah has contributed articles to *Gastroenterology Today* and to the *Turkish Journal of Geriatrics*.

Mann elected fellow in mechanical engineering

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers elected **Ken Mann, PhD**, Orthopedic Surgery, as a fellow of the society, recognizing his contributions to biomechanical engineering and his support of the society. Only 3,179 members have been elected as fellows of the society's 117,503 members.

Paola named a top peer reviewer

William F. Paolo, MD, Emergency Medicine, was named one of 50 Top Peer Reviewers for *Annals of Emergency Medicine* in 2012. Dr. Paolo was selected based on his outstanding timeliness, quality of review, volume of reviewers, and other factors.

Weinstock honored by Stirpe

State Assemblyman Al Stirpe, D-Cicero, gave **Ruth S. Weinstock, MD, PhD**, Medicine, a Woman of Distinction Award, which notes that she is an exceptional clinician and educator who contributes greatly to our community.

Upstate bestows faculty awards

Gold Standard Awards recognize faculty who are dedicated, enthusiastic and passionate about their work and who live the values of Upstate by exemplifying innovation, respect, service and integrity. These people received the award at Upstate's 6th annual Celebration of the Faculty in March: **Jesus Robert Calimlin, MD**, anesthesiology; **Bambi Carkey, DNP**, College of Nursing; **Irene Cherrick, MD**, pediatrics; **Kenneth Galbraith, Jr., MS, RT** medical imaging sciences; **Stephen Knohl, MD**, medicine; **Louise Prince, MD**, emergency medicine; **Dana Savici, MD**, medicine; **Thomas Lavoie, MD**, emergency medicine; **Leslie Major, MD**, psychiatry Binghamton campus.