



Happy New Year, 2024!

As we head into the New Year, the Department of Pediatrics has seen a lot of changes over the past year. Quite a few new faculty have joined us in 2023 in addition to our 15 new interns (it is hard to believe that we'll soon have the list for the 2024 interns!). The residency program has new leadership, the hospitalists have new leadership, and the residents have a new conference time. In addition, a large number of our third year residents matched to their new fellowships that will be starting in July. We also had several newlyweds last year. We have added several new babies (faculty and residents) to the family and are going into 2024 with a few more on the way! We have had a lot to be thankful for over the past year, and much to look forward to in 2024!

Seeing Double!

Congratulations to not one, but to two residents who were accepted to the AMSPDC Frontiers in Science (FIS) Symposium. AMSPDC selected both Dr. Precious Sanni Adeniyi and Dr. Ghina Fakhri participate in the 2024 meeting in New Orleans, LA in March. AMSPDC (Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs, Inc) has been in existence since the 1960s. As Dr. Connors noted, "This may be the first time, certainly since 2019, that we have had more than one resident accepted in the same year."

Home away from home

Congratulations to UPAC and Upstate Pediatrics for successfully renewing their status as Patient-Centered Medical Homes, as recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. They have now been recognized annually since 2017. Upstate Online explained that "The PCMH recognition identifies practices that promote partnerships between individual patients and their clinicians and focuses on care coordination and shared decision-making with the individual patients and caregivers." Dr. Connors noted "This recognition of UPAC and Upstate Pediatrics speaks to the quality of our medical staff and the team-based approach to care that helps us address the health care needs of our families across the Upstate health system. The excellent care provided across Upstate Golisano Children's

Hospital includes our outpatient services."

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2023/023-12-20-peds.php>

In an exclusive follow up interview, Dawn Kelly shared: "UPAC and Upstate Pediatrics have once again been Recognized by NCQA as a Patient Center Medical Home (PCMH). The clinics do this by monitoring a gamut of reports for different indicators such as access to care, time of return call to patients, AAPs printed, etc. We then complete many QI activities to assure better outcomes and provide excellent care to our patients and families. Everyone who walks into each of these clinics is a part of PCMH, from the faculty, residents, APPs, clinical and clerical staff to the Environmental Services staff. We couldn't be prouder of this recognition!"

In the News – A Breakthrough Device

Our very own Dr. William Sullivan, who is



the director of Outpatient Behavioral Services at the Golisano Center for Special Needs was headlined in the last Upstate Update for having launched a

study to assess how a novel technology called transcranial photobiomodulation (tPBM) may be used to help children with autism.

It involves the use of a non-invasive headband medical device that crosses the wearer's forehead and falls just over the tops of their ears. It has been designated by the FDA as a breakthrough device. Dr. Williams stated that "Preliminary evidence has shown that this therapy can improve behavioral symptoms of ASD by stimulating targeted brain areas that activate mitochondria, reduce brain inflammation, and improve functional brain connectivity. Independent scientific research, however, is needed to support those claims". In an exclusive interview, Dr. Sullivan tells the Crier, "This is an exciting new technology that I am eager to investigate here at Upstate. We have partnered with Dr. Alex Kolevzon, the Director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Clinical Director of the Seaver Autism Center for Research and Treatment at Mount Sinai, to run a concurrent clinical trial. We are actively recruiting

participants, and currently have six patients enrolled. For more information, or to refer participants, please contact me at 4-3932 or sullivanw@upstate.edu."

Does your child have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?
RESEARCH STUDY SEEKS PARTICIPANTS
You can earn up to \$75 for participating in this research!

We are conducting a study to examine the effectiveness of a novel, non-invasive, light therapy device designed to improve the language and behavior of children with ASD, ages 2 to 8.

Your Child Eligible!
For more information and to see if your child meets the eligibility criteria please contact:
Dr. William Sullivan 315-444-3932, wsullivan@upstate.edu

Participation Involves:
➤ A caregiver interview and assessment of your child's behavior at the beginning and end of the study.
➤ 30-40-minute visits to the Golisano Center for Special Needs, twice a week, for 10 weeks.
➤ A 10-minute phone interview each week.

Primary Investigator is Dr. William Sullivan. The study is being conducted by SUNY Upstate.

For the full Upstate Online article see: <https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2023/2023-12-15-wills.php>

Hail to the (New) Chiefs

We are excited to be able to officially announce that we will have three chief residents for the 2024-2025 academic year. The new chiefs will be Ayat Siddiqui, Sarah Sloan, and Lauren Thomas. Each of them will be a wonderful addition to the leadership team next year and we all look forward to working with them!

Our Gold Star Recipient

Congratulations to Clara El Nakib who was a Gold Star recipient from the Medical School in December. The Gold Star Report provides a mechanism to identify positive influences on professional standards and the learning environment. Clara received a lovely acknowledgement from one of the students which earned her a gold star and a mention in the quarterly Office of Undergraduate Medical Education newsletter.

New Arrival!

Congratulations to Dr. Jessica Mayer on the arrival of their new baby Aoife ("ee-fa"). Dr. Mayer tells the Crier, "Aoife Leigh Mayer was born 11/30/2023 at 10:15am weighing 9 lbs 5oz!! She is the happiest little thing and a great sleeper and eater! Her sister, Sophie, is overjoyed to be a big sister and helps with everything the baby needs. We are smitten 😊." We are, too, Dr. Mayer. Thank you for sharing!



Where are they now?

We got a note from former resident Joyce Saliba (Class of 2016) bragging a bit about her bestest friend who is also a former resident from the same class: I'm writing to share some great news about one of the pediatric residency alumni and bestest friend, Helena Gutierrez. She was invited to speak at the most recent AAP conference in DC. She gave her lecture about "Elevated LFTs in the pediatric office". She did an amazing job and I was there to cheer her on! I just thought you and the program would like to hear amazing news about ex-residents and be proud of her as much as I am." We definitely are proud of both of you, Joyce and Helena! Thanks for sharing!



Helena at the AAP



Joyce and family

Look Who Turned 60

Congratulations to Dr. Kennedy who turned 60 in December in NYC. We are not sure if it is illegal to do that or not but the officer was not holding handcuffs and she did make it back to work safely!



Not Your Typical Board Battle



The residents were in for a little bit of a surprise at their Thursday Conferences on 12/21 (right before the holidays) when Dr. Wasik showed up with Insomnia cookies and Adil's "Board Battle" suddenly turned into a highly competitive round of resident Jeopardy. There were baby pictures, pet pictures, fish pictures, impossibly challenging family history questions and more. We should note that when technology threatened to shut down the fun, it was Dr. Suryadevara who got the program working and remained on the scene while Adil lead the game. We appreciate Adil's (and Rida's) stealth work in preparing and pulling off the surprise!



In the News – Doing it Well.

Our very own Winter Berry was quoted in the New York Times article entitled, "New drugs can fix teenage obesity, but young people don't get them" (published on 12/11/23). The article deals with weight loss drugs for adolescents. It states that "much about how the drugs work is unknown, and long-term effects may be different when treatment starts in adolescence. That's a concern for Dr. Winter Berry, a pediatrician in private practice in Syracuse, New York, who worries about 'the dearth of data' on long-term use. She said that she and other pediatricians were not philosophically opposed to prescribing [weight loss drugs]. But, she said, 'we want to do it well. My colleagues and I feel we are not there yet'."

The Tripledemic

Dr. Jana Shaw was quoted in the Messenger (11/30) article, "Children's hospital reports surge of hospitalizations as tripledemic continues in U.S." <https://themessenger.com/health/rsv-new-york-hospital-tripledemic-covid-flu>

The RSV Roll Out

Syracuse.com featured both Dr. Jana Shaw and Dr. Joe Domachowske in their 11/29 article entitled: "Slow rollout of RSV drug leaves Upstate Golisano coping with surge of sick babies". <https://www.syracuse.com/health/2023/11/slow-rollout-of-rsv-drug-leaves-upstate-golisano-coping-with-surge-of-sick-babies.html>

Interview Update

As 2023 comes to a close, we have completed seven out of ten interview days, and have interviewed almost 140 applicants so far. We have three more interview days left (January 5, 12, and 19) with a goal of interviewing close to 200 applicants. All of this has been possible because of the many faculty and residents who have stepped up to help out with interviews and social hours. In February, we are planning three different recruitment events that will include two additional virtual social hour/second looks and a special get-together with some of our own Upstate students going into Peds. Once again, we especially appreciate Dr. Holly Stacey who has been in charge of this year's recruitment process. We are looking forward to a great match in March.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/4 Bob Hingre
- 1/10 Avnee Nulkar, Anna Hrbac
- 1/13 John Andrake
- 1/16 Andrew Dickson
- 1/17 Tara Dowd
- 1/21 Lamia Jouhar
- 1/24 Jessica Mayer
- 1/25 Nienke Dosa

