



New Faculty – Welcome Back Dr. Kaul

We are excited to welcome Dr. Priyanka Kaul back to the family. Some of you might recognize Dr. Kaul as she completed her pediatric residency here (Class of 2012). Priyanka has joined the team at UPAC and shares the following:

I was born and raised in Kashmir, India. I met my husband while we were both medical students in New Delhi. We moved to Syracuse after we married. We started our family here when I was still a resident in Pediatrics. I went into private practice after my residency and have enjoyed sharing my love for pediatrics with the medical students that rotated at Lyndon Pediatrics. Some of the residents know me through my work at Golisano after hours over the years. I have also been active at the American Board of Pediatrics in various roles since 2019. It was the love of teaching and academics that brought me back to Upstate. I am deeply interested in pediatric mental health and childhood trauma. I hope to use my skills in these areas when caring for the underserved community in Syracuse.

I am also excited to return to the residency program where I was trained. I have missed being part of this exciting learning environment, I hope to bring in some fresh perspective from my practice as well. Inside and outside of work, I am a free spirited, nature loving bookworm, always ready to go out and play. Along with my children Abhay and Aadya and my husband Avneet, I love to travel, try new cuisines, go on hikes, meet new people, sing, dance and laugh.



Graduation!

The Annual Housestaff Appreciation/ Graduation was held on June 14th at the Downtown Marriott. We celebrated two fellows (Danielle Daniels – Peds ID, and

Heather Ross – Child Abuse), our three chiefs, and 15 PL3s who received their certificates in front of about 100 friends, family, and colleagues.



And of course there were lots of awards given to a lot of worthy recipients:

Awards:

Rookie of the Year – Lamia Jouhar
Robert Kanter Award – Lucia Janovicova and Andrew Smith
Compassionate Care – Colleen Feeny
Global Health– Asmita Sharma

Awards Chosen By Residents:

Special Appreciation: Janet Hobson
Faculty: Rachel Clarke
Nursing: Medena Kewar



Our New Residency Director



We want to congratulate and welcome a familiar and beloved face as our new residency program director. The Pediatric Residency Program welcomes with great excitement our very own

Dr. Mide Ajagbe who has accepted the position of Program Director as of July 1, 2023. She has been our Associate program director since 2016 so she comes with a lot of experience. We all look forward to working with her in her new role.

Thank you, Dr. Nelsen

The residency program wants to thank Dr. Beth Nelsen for her amazing work over the past several years as our residency program director. Dr. Nelsen saw us through some tough times including Covid, which started just months after she did. Dr. Conners spoke for us all when he wrote, “We thank her profusely for the tremendous energy and passion she has brought to the Program Director role. We are grateful that Dr. Nelsen has agreed to stay-on in an advisory capacity to the program, as well as an involved faculty member.” We would also like to quote Dr. Blatt who shared the following: “Pediatric Program Director is one of the most difficult positions for any faculty member to undertake...Beth will be joining the club of past Program Directors Andrade, Botash, and Kennedy all of whom did a wonderful job. Having observed Beth up close...I know that professionally, she lived and breathed to serve the Department and specifically the Residents. I am confident our program will be in excellent hands going forward. Thank you Beth for everything you have done to help lead our medical education efforts.”

The residents also expressed their heartfelt thanks and appreciation at a special luncheon on 6/29. We are all thankful for Dr. Nelsen and wish her the best in her new career plans!

The PL3 Retreat

The PL3s were all given the weekend of June 17-18 off for one last get-together before heading off to their new lives. They spent the weekend in the Catskills. Spouses were invited, too, and it was a lovely time they will all remember.



Our New Interns – Class of 2026!

They are here! We are excited to welcome our 15 new interns who officially start on July 1st! Welcome, Class of 2026!



Yes, We Have a Winner!

We know that the burning question on everyone's mind is if we had a Scavenger Hunt for the newbies and, if so, who took the prestigious title. Thanks to Holly Stacey, all 15 interns were able to blast through the city, discovering new places, and seeking the path to victory. While the competition was fierce, and all the players gave their best, it was ultimately Team Kennedy-Yoon, Olufayo-Aluko, Tom who racked up the most points. Photographic evidence of their adventures was submitted. Thank you to Holly and all our illustrious team captains for an evening of fun, and (semi) friendly competition.



More New Intern Festivities

There were a few social events for the new interns to help welcome them and kick off the new year. Thank you to Michael Markell who hosted a BBQ at his home the weekend before they started orientation.



50 Years of Service

A very special congratulations to our very own Dr. Leonard Weiner who is being recognized for 50 years of service at Upstate. Dr. Weiner accepted a position in our department from the then Chairman, Dr. Frank Oski, to be the Division Chief of Peds ID in 1972 and the rest is history. Be sure to read the full article but we will end with a quote from Dr. Weiner: "I've been here a long time, but I wake up every day looking forward to coming to work," Weiner said, "never thinking that I made the wrong decision by staying."

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2023/2023-06-08-erd.php>

#EDUCATION CORNER

Exceptional Teachers

Dr. Nead

At the end of each clerkship rotation, students are asked to nominate exceptional teachers. The Dean's Office requests the following: "We are interested in collecting your stories about faculty members, residents, nurses, therapists, or anyone else, who have impacted or influenced you in a significant way. Please tell us what those teachers did that resulted in an exceptional educational experience and how it changed you..."

This past academic year, we had 13 pediatric preceptors nominated as exceptional teachers! Congratulations to the following exceptional pediatric educators: Aly Soliman, Andrew Smith, Dayna Ukwuoma, Mhd Khalil Tamr Agha, Janice Bach, Winter Berry, Andrew Brooks, Megan Campbell, Ian Gallegos Dargon, Michael Kennedy Yoon, Jennifer Nead, Adil Siddiqui, Holly Stacy, Jennifer Myszewski, and Sarah Hendrix. Dr. Michael Kennedy Yoon deserves additional recognition for being nominated twice!!! Please refer to the attachment that lists the wonderful comments that were submitted by students. (see attached)

Running for the Rescue

Patty Mondore will again be participating in the Rescue Mission's Run to help end hunger and homelessness in CNY. Feel free to either support her run, or register and run with us! As a reminder, the RM will be opening its Homeless & Runaway Youth Shelter in 2023 so you are helping to support that, too.

<https://give.rescuemissionalliance.org/fundraiser/PattyandBob>

A Crier Caption Contest

Last month we received a rather interesting photo taken at Zoo night. The picture really needed a caption. Congratulations to Dr. Lebel for the following outstanding caption:



"Busman's holiday, riding a tiger as relaxation after a day spent riding tigers in clinic."

Full of Pride

From Dr. Teelin

Here is a pride month photo from UPAC. The photo, pride t-shirts, and decorations were organized by Kat Bryant RN, and we were lucky to have Pride gear to give away to the patients, thanks to the Upstate Foundation. (Photo credit to medical students Joanna Berg and Caitlin Ward.)



JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/2 Colleen Feeney
7/3 Anjali Sura, Mohammed Doklajiah
7/6 Robin Jodoin
7/8 Mohamed Khallaf
7/9 David Cea-Flores
7/10 Shannen Eichler
7/14 Adil Siddiqui, Karen Teelin
7/16 Danielle Daniels
7/20 Jana Shaw
7/23 Travis Hobart, Chris Kuehnle
7/29 Yasmika Razakumar
7/31 Lauren Waichenberg

Peds Exceptional Teachers for 2022-2023

Name	Comment
Aly Soliman	Aly is a great teacher, and always answered my questions on rounds and during the work day. He made sure I felt supported and always checked in to see how I was doing with my notes, and with my patients. He always gave helpful feedback on how to improve my notes as well, and used each patient to discuss topics that may show up on the shelf exam. Aly truly made me feel integrated into the red team during my 2 weeks working with him. I really appreciate having the opportunity to work with Aly!
Andrew Smith	Andrew was an exceptional teacher. He was the best leader I worked with on pediatrics. He challenged me by allowing me to see difficult patients inpatient. He extended my knowledge when he took the time to give a 20 minute lecture on calculating fluids and calories needed for pediatric patients. He always answered my questions and made sure I understand everything. He was well-organized and handle all adversity with ease. He took over an emotional conversation with a patient's father after another medical student became visibly upset. He encouraged that student, and he reminded them about how great they were and what an asset they were to the team. He was an excellent senior and will make a great attending. It was a pleasure working with him.
Dayna Ukwuoma	Dayna went out of her way to make sure I felt supported when writing a complicated note; she helped me think through what information would go in each section and why. I was feeling overwhelmed at the amount of information to be organized and she broke it down in a super accessible way that how helps me write all my notes!
Mhd Khalil Tamr Agha	Dr. Agha provided an amazing example of a resident. Dedicated to his patients, kind and compassionate, and all well always taking the extra moment to lean over to medical students to help us learn and understand what was going on.
Janice Bach	Dr. Bach provided a great understanding of the foster care system and health care in pediatrics. I was able to work with her for three days and they were very meaningful to my education. She made sure to answer all of my questions and discussed helpful learning experiences. Would recommend having her speak about the foster care system to a wider range of medical students as that is something I had not encountered much until this year.
Winter Berry	Dr. Berry made my time on outpatient pediatrics extremely worthwhile. She goes out of her way to engage medical students and make them feel involved. Her implementation of the "student" preceptor at UPAC ensures that every shift for medical students is a worthwhile learning experience, and she tailors students' learning experiences to their specific interests. One of the strongest, most considerate attendings I've worked with all year...any student would be lucky to rotate with her.
Andrew Brooks	Dr. Andrew Brooks always provided an excellent learning environment and made sure, as students, we were well guided and taken care of. I consider myself lucky to have had him as my senior during my inpatient rotations and he will make an incredible attending where ever he goes. I hope to be as brilliant, empathetic, and efficient in my practice during my senior resident year as he was.
Megan Campbell	Dr. Campbell was the best teacher I have had during my clerkships to date. It was very helpful to hear constructive criticism in an encouraging way. I never felt embarrassed to admit I had questions because she was always incredibly willing to take time out of her day to answer them and teach me.
Ian Gallegos Dargon	Dr. Dargon was the first physician who has made me feel as if my thoughts on a patient mattered. He made me feel like a valued and appreciated part of the team.
Michael Kennedy Yoon	Dr. Kennedy-Yoon was an amazing resident who went out of his way to teach. He even let us practice doing IVs on his arm. I appreciated his positivity.
Michael Kennedy Yoon	provides unsolicited positive reinforcement and carries a positive attitude that lifts up the entire team. When he finds room for improvement in the medical students he mentors, whether it be a medical or teambuilding teaching point, he is able to give concrete and specific tips in a discrete manner to help that student improve. In addition to all of this, he personally bought Glazed and Confused donuts for the medical students on his team as well as the medical students on the other pediatrics inpatient team on the last day of service. This shows his commitment to being a genuinely nice leader who looks out for those around him
Jennifer Nead	Dr. Nead is an incredibly attentive physician. While rounding, Dr. Nead gave students and residents her absolute attention during oral presentations. She always gave constructive feedback. While seeing patients, she would address all of the concerns that were brought up during our presentations, and she would always address any concerns the patient or family had. She is one of the most thorough physicians I have worked with. In addition to her skill as a physician, she is also a great clerkship director and would take time out of her day to ensure that students were having a quality clerkship experience.
Adil Siddiqui	Dr. Siddiqui was one of a kind. He genuinely cares about his students and always took the time for teaching opportunities. He made us feel apart of the team. He was encouraging, kind and positive. He made my experience on peds awesome!

Holly Stacy

Holly took time to go through a list of topics I was weak in. after that session I felt like I had a better understanding of those topics. in addition, any time I was confused by any last questions or problems in the clinic I felt confident I could go to her for an explanation.

Jennifer Myszewski

She has a way with patients and families that I have never experienced before. Her level of professionalism and focus on patient care is something that I hope to emulate in my future practice as a physician.

Sarah Hendrix

No matter how busy she was, she always found time during the day to teach. Gave educational as well as life advice to every student. Happy I was able to work with her during my journey as a medical student