



### Welcoming New Faculty: Dr. Aimee Steiniger

The Division of General Pediatrics welcomes



Dr. Aimee Steiniger to its faculty. Dr. Steiniger joined the department on February 5th. She shared the following with the Crier:

Hi, I am Aimee Steiniger. I am originally from Buffalo, New York. I went to Binghamton University for undergrad and then Albany Medical College for medical school. After medical school, I left the area and did a pediatrics residency at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. After residency, we loved the area, and I stayed in Tucson for 9 years practicing at El Rio Health Center, a federally qualified health center in Southern Arizona. While at El Rio, I had special interests in healthcare advocacy and adolescent care, focusing on reproductive health. I was part of the Reproductive Health Access Project at El Rio, a program that trained youth peer educators to assist our patients in learning about their reproductive health. Through this program, we provided reproductive health care to teens needing confidential services and many teens without health insurance.

During our time in Tucson, we had a daughter who is now 4 years old. In the past few years, we decided to move back to upstate New York to have our daughter grow up closer to family. My husband's family is originally from Syracuse, so we have returned home and love it! We enjoy skiing, cooking, traveling, and some hiking. We are very serious Bills fans and happy to be back in Bills country. We are excited to be back in the Central New York area!



### Comings and Goings:

### Our Up-and-Coming PHM Fellow

*Dr. Myszewski*

We are very excited to have Dr. Ancy Alexander join the Pediatric Hospital Medicine Fellowship in July. She is a native New Yorker who grew up on Long Island. She took the fast track through college, completing a combined degree program at NYITCOM and receiving her Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology and her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in 7 years. She is currently a third-year pediatric resident at Maimonides in Brooklyn where she is involved in multiple QI programs. She is interested in global health and has participated in medical mission trips to Haiti and Peru. She is also interested in palliative care and advocacy.



### Where are they going?

We shared the exciting match results of several of our PL3s a few months ago. This month we are excited to report where a few of our other grads will be going. First, congratulations to Allison Clack who has accepted a job working in a pediatric emergency department for Boston Children's Hospital!

Congratulations to Akilah Evans who will be working in general pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

And, congratulations to Avnee Nulkar who will be working at the Vancouver Clinic in Vancouver, Washington.

These are all super exciting opportunities, and we are definitely proud of them all!

### Beyond the Doctorate

Note that the annual Beyond the Doctorate Research Day is scheduled for Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Pediatrics was once represented very well with six posters!

The resident talks and the keynote address will be held in the NAB 4414 B/C from 1:00 - 4:00pm followed by the Poster Session from 4:00-5:30PM in the NAB 4414 A. Peds posters include Drs. Doklajjah, El Nakib, Khan, Mohamed, Tamer Agha, and L.

Thomas. Come support our budding pediatric researchers. (See also attached poster).

### Very Appreciated!

The week of February 19<sup>th</sup> was hospital-wide resident appreciation week. Every day of the week came with special treats and events both from the GME and specifically for our awesome peds residents and fellows. In addition to daily treats in the workroom (provided by program leadership), there was a hospital-wide ice cream social, free coffee, pet-a-pooch day, donuts, and even some free tickets for a Crunch game. The GME office provided appreciation travel mugs (below), and Pediatrics gave our residents gift cards.



Each day of the week, a different member of program leadership also dropped some treats off to the resident workroom with a personal note of appreciation.





Residents, please see Aubrey if you did not get your gift card).



There's no doubt about it; we think our residents are just ducky and we all appreciate them!



Resident Appreciation Week, Day 5 - from Dr. Ajagbe  
 Dear Team,  
 I tell you often how much I appreciate each and every one of you! Your smiles, your hearts, how you take care of your patients and their families, how you look out for each other and for us. You are all amazing and I wish I had enough time for us to show you how much you mean to us!  
 With love,  
 Dr. Ajagbe

**Interviews**

The last pre-match day interview event took place on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> when over 45 applicants joined a group of residents for one last virtual look at the program. Thank you to all the residents who participated. We have gotten nothing but amazing feedback from the applicants about this final event along with all of our other resident social hours this year.

**Beautiful Baby Boy**

Congratulations to Dr. Kaitlyn Kennedy on the arrival of baby boy Mark on February 10<sup>th</sup>. We wish Kaitlyn and her family the very best!

**Child Life is Groovy in Month**

March is National Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Month and Child Life at the GCH will be celebrating with activities and events every day of the month. The full schedule is attached but be sure to specially note the four Wednesday Theme Days and show your support by joining the fun, Themes are as follows:



(See attached full schedule)

**Wishing Dr. Mittiga the Best**

*Dr. Melissa Schafer*



Please join me in thanking Dr. Matt Mittiga for serving our community as a Pediatric Hospitalist for this past seven years, his calm knowledgeable presence has been a benefit to us all. His last day with us will be Feb 29, after which he will be transitioning to primary care peds at Slocum-Dickson in Utica, NY”

<https://www.sdmg.com/provider/matthew-mittiga/>

Dr. Mittiga was toasted by faculty and residents on the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Press Room Pub. We will all miss Dr. Mittiga and wish him the very best.

**A Successful Radiothon**

The 2024 Radiothon for Kids raised more than \$193,000 from callers all across CNY to benefit sick kids at the GCH. The Radiothon was supported by CNY Central and iHeartradio stations, 570WSYR and Y94, which provided live broadcasts during Radiothon from the hospital lobby.



**Recertified in Peds Trauma**

Dr. Wallenstein shared the exciting news that Upstate received the official notification from the American College of Surgeons that the Pediatric Trauma Program has been re-verified as a level 1 pediatric trauma center through December 3, 2026. Dr. Wallenstein is the Pediatric Trauma Medical Director.

**Bachelors & Bachelorettes**

As former residents Simi George and Andrew Smith get closer to their wedding date, they gathered a bunch of their former classmates for one last bachelor and bachelorette party in Charleston South Carolina in February. They will all gather again for the wedding coming up in April.



The Crier will do its best to cover the main event in a few months.

**A Bird in the Hand**

In case you are looking for some leisure reading, our editor shares a daring summer rescue published last month in the ThousandIslandsLife magazine.



<https://thousandislandslife.com/a-bird-in-the-hand/>

**March Events:**

- Beyond the Doctorate, March 6th
- Mock Site Visit, Thurs, March 7th
- Match Day – Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Site Visit, Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 3/6 Melanie Comito
- 3/9 Tobey Kresel
- 3/16 Jennifer Zuccaro
- 3/19 Josh Baldwin
- 3/25 Lexi Sirota, Ann Botash
- 3/29 Sarah Sloan
- 3/31 Lizzy Simmerman

# BEYOND THE DOCTORATE RESEARCH DAY

FEATURING THE RESEARCH OF UPSTATE POSTDOCS, RESIDENTS & FELLOWS



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

**Mikki Kollisch, MD**

Assistant Professor for Surgery and Pediatrics  
SUNY Upstate Medical University

*"The Physician-Scientist:  
Complement or Contradiction"*

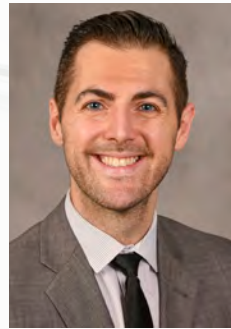
## SPEAKERS:



**Amanda Eisinger, MD**  
Resident: Internal Medicine



**Emmanuel Ijezie, PhD**  
Postdoc: Microbiology & Immunology



**George Koutsouras, MD**  
Resident: Neurosurgery



**Somanath Kundu, PhD**  
Postdoc: Neuroscience & Physiology



**Bharat Rawlley, MD**  
Resident: Internal Medicine



**João Carlos  
Ribeiro-Silva, PhD**  
Postdoc: Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences



**Fathima Suhail, MD**  
Fellow: Gastroenterology



**Arunkumar  
Venkatesan, PhD**  
Postdoc: Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences



**For more information visit:**

[www.upstate.edu/info\\_btd](http://www.upstate.edu/info_btd)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 • 1:00 - 5:30 PM**

Oral Presentations: NAB 4414 B/C, 1:00 - 4:00

Poster Session: NAB 4414 A, 4:00 - 5:30

**UPSTATE**  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

# March 2024

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

26



### Music Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3pm

27



### Tech and Gaming Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm

28



### Medical Play Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm

29



### Art Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm

1



### Ice Carver and Icecream Treat

Children's Hospital Lobby  
11:45am

4



### Music Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3pm

5



### Tech and Gaming Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm

6

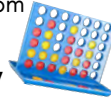
### Connect 4 Tournament

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm



### Theme Day

Wear Tie Dye



7

### Pet Therapy

Short visit in your room  
Between 11am and 1pm



project  
sunshine

### Project Sunshine Visit

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm

8



### Family Lunch

11th Floor Performance Center  
11:45am

11



### Music Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3pm

12



### Mario Day Gaming Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm

13

### Family Lunch

11th Floor Performance Center  
11:45am



### Theme Day

Wear Sports Team Gear



14

### Pi Day Treat



### Art Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm



15



### St Patrick's Day Treat and Leprechan Hunt

18



### Pinewood Derby

11th Floor Performance Center  
1:00pm-3:00pm

19



### Tech and Gaming Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm

20

### Music Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm



### Theme Day

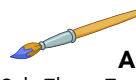
Wear Kindness Shirt



21

### Pet Therapy

Short visit in your room  
Between 11am and 1pm



### Art Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm



22



### Family Lunch

11th Floor Performance Center  
11:45am

25



### Art Group

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
2:00pm-3:30pm

26



### Double H Ranch Visit

12th Floor Family Resource Center  
1:30pm-3:30pm

27

### BINGO

11th Floor Performance Center  
2pm-3:30pm



### Theme Day

Wear a Character Shirt



28

### Pet Therapy

Short visit in your room  
Between 11am and 1pm



### Piano Day

12th Floor Family Resource Center



29



### Family Lunch

11th Floor Performance Center  
11:45am

\*All events are subject to change and your/your child's ability to participate depends on everyone's health and safety. Please ask your nurse before attending any events.