



New Faculty – Welcome Dr. Heather Ross
Most of you already know our former Child Abuse Fellow, Dr. Heather Ross. We are thrilled to be able to welcome and introduce her as one of our newest faculty members. Heather shares the following: From a very early age, I had a natural love and affinity for children. Their innocence, boundless curiosity, tenacity, and resilience makes them so unique. My sister was a very ill child, and I instinctively became her protector. I wanted to become every child's protector. I set out on the journey to becoming a pediatrician, with forks in the road I never could have imagined surviving. Getting to this point is the greatest joy and accomplishment of my life and Upstate has been very good to me. I love working with you and can't imagine starting my career anywhere else. I treasure our community of patients who humble me daily. I can only hope to be as wonderful as all of you who helped to train and mentor me during residency and fellowship here at Upstate. During my elective in Child Abuse, I found my place, the place where I could accomplish the greatest good. Fellowship has allowed me to participate in activities that I love including teaching, working with the community on a grant project, and participating in a broad range of scholarship opportunities. I am thrilled to practice Child Abuse Pediatrics at Upstate and look forward to our continued collaboration.



The photo of Dr Pekarshy and I represents the ~80% of the time we unintentionally color coordinate, which always makes us laugh. The picture on the right is from one of the best weeks of

my life when I accompanied a group of providers to the Chimborazo Province in Ecuador and treated more than 100 children over five days.

Two PEAS in a Pod

Congratulations to Clara El Nakib and Akilah Evans who were each recipients of one of the PEA (Patient Experience) awards.



The rest of the 2023 PEA awards are as follows:
OUTSTANDING RESIDENT
 Inpatient - Sarah Hendrix MD
BEST TEAM PLAYER
 Inpatient -Karen McNaught, RN
MVP
 Inpatient -Lauren Bonilla, RN
BEST COMMUNICATOR
 Inpatient -Akilah Evans, MD
BEST ATTITUDE
 Inpatient-Katherine Oja, RN
BEST LISTENER
 Inpatient -Brittany Tolhurst, RN
MOST ATTENTIVE
 Inpatient -Medena Kawar, RN
BEST PATIENT ADVOCATE
 Inpatient -Jonathan Fried, RN
BEST LISTENER
 Outpatient -Akilah Evans, MD
BEST ATTITUDE
 Outpatient -Brenda Walser
OUTSTANDING RESIDENT
 Outpatient -Clara El Nakib, MD
BEST TEAM PLAYER
 Outpatient -Felicia Green-Kirkland
BEST PATIENT ADVOCATE
 Outpatient -Laurie Clouston, RN
MVP
 Outpatient - Maureen Bogardus, RN
MOST ATTENTIVE
 Outpatient -Rebecca Pavarnik, LPN
BEST COMMUNICATOR
 Outpatient -Steven Blatt, MD
Linda McAleer Award for Patient Safety
 2023 Winner - Bonnie Seitz, MS, RN, CNS, CPN

The Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital Patient Experience Awards recognize staff who demonstrate the core concepts of patient

and family centered care of honoring family perspectives and choices, sharing information in a timely and complete manner, encouraging participation in care and decision-making at a comfortable level, and collaborating with families and staff. These peer nominated awards are given annually to staff who represent the best of Upstate Golisano. Also presented was the inaugural Linda McAleer Award for Patient Safety.

Pictures from the AAP

We were so excited to see so many familiar faces and former residents at the AAP National Conference this year! We can only share what was sent to the Crier, but see how many of these faces you can remember.



And of course a picture of our current AAP resident rep!



Community Building @Upstate

The Crier received the following picture taken at the CBU meeting on 10/5 with the 11E nurses.



It was only recently that the Peds residents were invited to participate. Since then, our first new trained facilitator was Michael Markel who

shared this picture with us. The Community Building at Upstate program provides monthly shared meals with the goal of improving well-being and strengthening relationships and collaboration of health care practitioners. More information about the program can be found here:

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/2022-09-07-allin.php>

An Exceptional Teacher

Congratulations to Robert Roger Lebel, MD, who was the October 2023 recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition award. The Norton College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly “Exceptional Moments in Teaching” program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships. Recognized teachers—including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators—are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience. (see attached flyer?)

pictured with their adorable daughter Lilly! We wish them the very best! Kaitlyn is currently practicing just a little north of us, in Watertown.

Another Bride and Groom!

Congratulations to former resident Dean Karahalios (2021) who also tied the knot.



Dean tells the Crier, “You might remember that I got engaged last fall. Over the summer my wife and I finally got married in a dream wedding in Chicago. A wonderful contingent from Upstate was there and it was so great to celebrate with them! It's hard to believe, but I am in my third year of pediatric cardiology fellowship. Your message comes in great timing since I just finished interviewing for opportunities after fellowship. I am thrilled to share that I'll be completing a year of training in pediatric advanced heart failure and transplant at Northwestern Medicine/Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago! I'm very excited to take care of this very special patient population.” We are excited for Dean and his lovely wife and wish them the best.

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Kenya Thanks

You may have already seen it but Dr. Andi Shaw's thank you email is worth sharing again. “Greetings to ALL the faculty, residents, students and staff who extended a very warm welcome to these visiting Kenyan graduates of Maseno University School of Medicine over the past 1 month..Kezia and Khatija had an incredible experience with all of you and have made it back safe to Kenya. They were both SOOO appreciative of everyone's attention to their learning and engagement with the teams. ..I cannot thank you enough for taking the time amidst BUSY fall schedules to welcome these two new visitors, they certainly had a beautiful CNY month!



As the Crier goes to print, Dr. Jan Bach and Dr. Sarah Hendrix have joined these two in Kenya on a global health elective. The Crier hopes to bring you the full report from the next trip to Kenya!

New Conference Time and Lunch!

In addition to new faculty and new babies, there are a lot of other exciting new changes taking place in the Department. One of those changes involves moving the Thursday Resident morning conferences to the afternoon starting on November 2nd. A special thanks to the Upstate Foundation who will be providing lunch “to our valued Pediatric Residents” for all of our Thursday conferences!

Welcome Baby Rofan



Congratulations to Mohammed Doklajah and his wife on the arrival of baby girl Rofan on 10/26. All are

doing well!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 Irene Cherrick
- 11/5 Christopher Justinich
- 11/8 Joe D., Manika S.
- 11/9 Sara Taha, Nus Zaman
- 11/10 Lucia Janovicova
- 11/26 Elizabeth Paulsen
- 11/27 Maxence Gilles, Deepa Thomas

ID in Madrid

Our very own Dr. Domachowske will be presenting his research at the Public Health Conference on RSV, Madrid Spain 11/23/23 (Thanksgiving Day). Dr. D. tells the Crier it is “The perfect way for me to celebrate one of the things I am most thankful for. The [RSV} immunization that changes the game: Protection for all newborns.



NASPGHAN Gatherings!

We are very excited and proud that TWO of our residents presented at NASPGHAN in October. Congratulations to future Gastroenterologists Clara El Nakib and Ghina Fakhri. They ran into a few other familiar faces while there including R.C. Candava and Aamer Imdad. Congratulations Clara and Ghina!



EDUCATION CORNER

Dr. Jennifer Nead

Chris and I made a clerkship site visit to Riverview Pediatrics. We had the honor of awarding Drs. Finocchiaro, Overton and

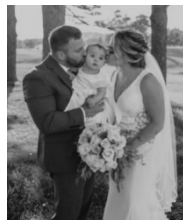


Delaney the Pediatrics Clerkship's Teaching Award for the 2022-2023 academic year. This award is so well deserved! We were

impressed with their new office building and thoroughly enjoyed the tour given by Drs. Finocchiaro and Overton. It was evident how much thought and planning went into the layout and design of the new space. While everything was welcoming, we were especially blown away by the medical student work room that the doctors specifically designed for our students! We are very grateful for these Upstate Pediatric Residency alumni that continue to educate and mentor our students!

Bride, Groom, and Lilly!

Congratulations to former resident Kaitlyn McGregor who was married on 9/16/23 in Gouverneur. She and her husband Dominick are



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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

EXCEPTIONAL MOMENTS IN TEACHING



Robert Roger Lebel, MD, a professor of Pediatrics at Upstate Medical University, is the **October 2023** recipient of the **Exceptional Moments in Teaching** recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. LABEL'S STUDENTS:

"This professor has challenged me to not only practice my skills outside of the classroom, but to go above and beyond to shadow and critically evaluate providers and their skills so that I may integrate what may be deemed "best practice" into my own skillset. He has also inspired me to think ethically about clinical decisions and to put the patient first in everything that I do, from my classwork to my extracurricular research and organizational activities. He has been an exceptional role model and mentor that I am grateful to have and aspire to be like."

"Dr. Lebel's passion about this topic was infectious, and I found myself excited to learn about his work. The implementation of real-life examples that he has seen in his clinic was fascinating and also helped me to understand the foundations for most of his lectures. I really enjoyed his passion for the topic along with the great anecdotes provided."

"Dr. Lebel came to class with experience in the field he was teaching. He had stories for us about treating or encountering the diseases that we discussed, as well as gave us practical advice about what to do if we encounter a patient with a suspected chromosome abnormality. He invested a great deal of time and effort into making his lectures practical and engaging at the same time."

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Where your gift impacts the
health of the entire region.

Lunch is provided
to our valued
Pediatric Residents
from your friends
at the Upstate
Foundation.