

**New Faculty –****Francesca McCaffery, DO**

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We are delighted to introduce our new hospitalist to you. Dr. Francesca McCaffery started in September. She tells the Crier, “I am originally from the Adirondacks of New York, but I did not truly appreciate its beauty and community until I left. I went to medical school in Maine at the University of New England and trained for pediatric residency at the Sanford Children’s Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I spent the first five years out of training enjoying the full depth and breadth of pediatric medicine in a small community hospital in Wyoming where I took care of children in the clinic, in the hospital, in the Newborn Nursery and NICU! Wyoming was a great place to live and work for five years, and we learned a lot about a part of a country that we would otherwise never have been able to see. This past year, my husband finished medical school and matched at SUNY Upstate as an emergency medicine resident. This was the greatest blessing as it gave us the opportunity to come back home to New York. We have three beautiful children, ages, 11, seven, and four months. We have already had an amazing summer in Central, New York, visiting family, traveling across the Northeast, and enjoying our beautiful new home! I can’t wait to start working on the Pediatric Hospitalist team, as I really enjoy working with residents. I hope to share my life’s experiences as a young pediatrician and get to know each of them and their stories.

Here’s a picture of us on a recent trip to Northern Maine, where we spent part of our summer vacation with family.

**Welcome Dr. Courtney Mauzy**

Dr. Courtney Mauzy joined the Division of Child Development, Behavior and Genetics in September. We are excited to have Dr. Mauzy join the faculty at the Golisano Center for Special

Needs. Dr. Mauzy tells the Crier: I am so excited for the opportunity to be a part of the Upstate team. I have spent the majority of my life down south in North Carolina or Georgia, so this is my first experience with the area. I was introduced into the field of pediatrics during undergraduate years at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington as I joined a research lab specializing in the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders and severe problem behavior. I immediately fell in love with the population and the science and have remained within the field throughout my academic and professional career. I completed my PhD in School Psychology at the University of Georgia followed by my post-doctoral internship at Emory University School of Medicine and the Marcus Autism Center. I am very excited to continue my professional journey here at Upstate. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my wife Brittany, and my 3-year-old son, Rollins. We are excited to get to explore New York and the surrounding areas and are doing our best to prepare for our first winter!

**Welcome Dr. Michele Spring**

Finally, at least for this month, we welcome Dr. Michele Spring who has a dual appointment with the department. She tells the Crier, “Hello! My name is Michele Spring, and I am

happy to be joining the Department of Pediatrics. I’ll be splitting my time between the clinic at the Center for International Health and the Department of Microbiology and immunology/Institute for Global Health and Translational Science.

I grew up in Vestal, NY (right outside Binghamton, NY) and became enthralled with parasitology and global health in undergrad and during my MSPH at Tulane University. That led to time as a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa, becoming a pediatric infectious disease physician with a fellowship project on malaria in western Kenya, and then moving to Thailand for 12 years to conduct malaria research with Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). I decided to move back and join Upstate because of the very experienced (and amazing!) global health clinical research program here, with studies being conducted both in Syracuse and abroad. The scope of care the Department of Pediatrics provides is also impressive, and I am very excited to assist CIH in refugee health.

My Thai dog and cat, Millie and Lucky, came with me to Syracuse, and I will be helping them acclimate to winter - although I am not sure I am so ready myself! I am looking forward to meeting everyone over the next few months!

**The Intern Retreat**

On Thursday, 9/14, the interns disappeared from all the floors and clinics for their retreat at the Doubletree Hotel in East Syracuse. They spent the night at the hotel and were joined the next morning by the three program directors for some quality bonding time. Dr. Ajagbe commented, “Intern retreat went very well. We did not get to all the activities on the agenda but that was ok because we bonded well and we got to know them and they got to know us.” They all enjoyed lunch at the hotel and several had to run back to the hospital for the afternoon.



We will probably never know everything that transpired on Thursday night but were excited to receive the following report from Stephanie Toms:

“The intern retreat was very successful, with all you could hope for in a group of young, new residents: bonding, laughs, and some healthy competition. We all hung out on Thursday night, enjoying pizza, wings, and drinks. Abimbola then imparted her knowledge of the card game Uno onto our residents who were not familiar with the game. What happens at intern retreat, stays at intern retreat - but let’s just say that Abimbola started as the teacher and quickly was schooled. The next morning was spent with the program directors with great conversation and more team building. The interns are ready to take on the rest of the year with their shared goals and unique strengths as a team!”



### Finally, Just Married!

It seems like it has been a long time in the coming, but congratulations to former residents Josh Griesman (2020) and Valerie Ho (2020), who got married in September. Valerie tells the Crier, “We just wanted to share the happy news that we got married on September 3rd. A love created by the ERAS algorithm, and which blossomed in the hallways of Golisano Children’s Hospital!! Thought you might enjoy a photo from the big day. We miss you so much, and hope all is well!” We are so very happy for Josh and Val and wish them a beautiful life together!



### Welcome Baby Wali!

We are super excited to be able to welcome the new addition to the Wali family. Dr. Wali wrote, “Just wanted to let you all know that Baby Girl Wali (aka Ariadne) was delivered happy and healthy (and feisty!) at 8lb 8 oz on 9/6/23. Thank you so much again for all your support throughout our pregnancy! Looking forward to introducing her to all of you! Love, Mikki and Prateek”. Congratulations, Mikki and Prateek. She is adorable!



### Welcome, Yousef Khallaf!

Congratulations to Mohamed Khallaf and his wife on the birth of baby boy Yousef on Sept 8<sup>th</sup>. Mohamed tells the Crier, “He couldn't wait and came in 1 week early, he is 2 weeks old now. He is very tiny”. He is also very adorable! Congratulations!



### Interview Season starts Oct 27<sup>th</sup>

October 27<sup>th</sup> will be the first of 10 residency interview days scheduled. One of our newest faculty members has been named as Chair of the Pediatric Resident Recruitment Committee and has already done a great job at helping to create a new and exciting format for how things will work this year. Holly tells the Crier, “I am excited about the opportunity to participate in this upcoming recruitment season, and I believe, despite the unique landscape, this year will be a successful and enjoyable one! We are excited for March Day 2024 and look forward to meeting the Class of 2027!” We plan to invite up to 200 applicants to participate in interviews that will include time with the residents and chiefs, a video tour, recorded highlights of several faculty members, and a slightly shorter interview day. We are looking forward to a great match in March. Thank you to all of the faculty and residents who have already signed up to help out with interviews and applicant social hours the night before. If you would like a piece of the

action and never signed up, contact Holly.

### Walk for the GCH on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>

You can register to participate in Matthews Annual Walk-A-Thon and raise \$10 for every mile you walk, for the GCH! The fifth annual Matthews Auto Walk-a-Thon will be held Oct. 7 at the Vestal Rail, or you can walk virtually right here in Syracuse. Matthews will donate \$10 for every mile walked, up to \$100,000. To register, visit: <https://www.matthewsauto.com/walkathon.htm> and be sure to choose Upstate GCH, Syracuse from the charity drop-down list.

### In The News

Dr. Robert Lebel, Bonnie Braddock, and Gloria Morris appeared on WNCY's Cycle of Health program discussing genetics at <https://vod.wenycy.org/cycle-of-health/>

Dr. Travis Hobart was quoted in the Syracuse.com story, “Syracuse’s children suffer from trail of lead paint ignored by landlords”.

<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2023/09/syracuses-children-suffer-from-trail-of-lead-paint-ignored-by-landlords-its-like-they-dont-care.html>

Dr. Stuart Trust was the recipient of the 2022-2023 Excellence in Teach Awards for Foundations of Reasoning in Medicine which is based on nominations by medical students. It was noted that very few students fill out this area of the evaluation but they used it to comment on Dr. Trust’s dedication to teaching and superior instruction.

### Welcome Professor Suryadevara

The residency program leadership is very pleased to be able to announce that our newest Associate Program Director has now added full Professor to her title. Congratulations, Dr. Suryadevara!

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1 Stuart Trust
- 10/3 Akilah Evans, Areeb Mustansar
- 10/15 Alicia Pekarsky
- 10/18 Jennifer Myszewski
- 10/19 Kimberly Rush
- 10/22 Howard Weinberger
- 10/23 Frank Smith, Suzanne Addabbo
- 10/28 Michael Markel
- 10/31 Ibrahim Habib