Advocating for Respect for People with Disabilities

“At the age of 14, I was fortunate to meet a special population of individuals who showed me what it means to truly love life and that limitations are only what we make them. I strive to share this message with my patients and families every day.” ~ Stephanie Straka, D.O.

Stephanie Straka, D.O., a third-year fellow in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics, has a long history of volunteerism and advocacy. She has worked as a camp counselor to children with developmental disabilities, volunteered with the Special Olympics, and traveled on medical missions to Honduras and India. In addition, she regularly participates in community events to raise funds for a number of advocacy programs including the recent Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

In collaboration with the Golisano Children’s Foundation, The Advocacy Center, and local Special Olympics, Dr. Straka and Cynthia Wong, D.M.D., student leaders of the local American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD), worked side-by-side to organize this year’s annual event to raise awareness of the hurtfulness of the r-word “retard.” The campaign aims to educate people about respect for people with disabilities, and the terminology transition from mental retardation to intellectual disability.

The March 5th event featured local artists with disabilities who showcased their talents and inspired their audiences across the University of Rochester. An adolescent with cerebral palsy showed off his DJ skills, while the Gregory Street Blues Band, made up of musicians with diverse intellectual disabilities, performed live, and Wheels in Motion from Cobblestone Performing Arts partnered able-bodied and wheel-chair bound performers in a beautifully choreographed dance. Attendees were encouraged to (electronically) sign a pledge to support elimination of the r-word from everyday speech and promote acceptance and inclusion. Pledge your support.

Adolescent Medicine Fellow Alumni ~ New Research on Eating Disorders

Dr. Taylor Starr (left), graduated from the URMC Adolescent Medicine fellowship program in 2012; Dr. Richard Kreipe graduated in 1981.
In a recent review in the journal *Current Psychiatry Reports*, Assistant Professor Taylor B. Starr, D.O., M.P.H., and Professor Richard E. Kreipe, M.D., in the Department of Pediatrics put forward a timely update of research on anorexia and bulimia. Starr and Kreipe discuss epidemiological studies that question the existing stereotyping and profiling of those affected. These studies point out that eating disorders are not just affecting adolescent and young white females but prepubertal males and minority ethnic populations like Asian and Latin. Another important factor increasingly influencing the scope of eating disorders is the media. The authors also highlight research carried out on the two most affected organs in individuals with these disorders - the brain and the bone. Read more at the Research@URMC blog.


---

Welcome to Our Newest Fellows!

**Cardiology**
Stephen Lambrinos, M.D., M.B.A.
Albany Medical College
Albany, NY

**General Pediatrics**
Casey Rosen-Carole, M.D.
Yale University
New Haven, CT

**Critical Care**
Elizabeth Nocera, D.O.
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY

**General Pediatrics**
Marybeth Jones, M.D.
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, PA

**Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics**
Robert Nutt, M.D.
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY

**Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine**
Javed Mannan, M.D., M.P.H.
New York Methodist Hospital
Brooklyn, NY

**Gastroenterology/Nutrition**
Walaa Elfar, M.B.Ch.B.
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY

**Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine**
James Thomas, M.D.
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY

**Gastroenterology/Nutrition**
Krishnamraju Kosuru, M.B.B.S.
Michigan State University
Lansing, MI

**Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine**
Shanley Blackley Sifain, M.D.
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY
On a Personal Note

Recent Cardiology alumnus, Mohy Kotb, M.B.B.Ch. and his wife Emy welcomed Jenna, their second child, on July 1st!

Did You Know?

Fellowship Annual Report

Our 2012-2013 Fellowship Annual Report is available online. Check it out on our Pediatric Fellowship Programs page.

Academic Core Curriculum (ACC) Schedule Available Online

The 2014-2015 ACC Conference Series kicks off on Thursday, September 4th at 12:00 noon.

Current Fellows & Alumni - Please send us your news!
Anna_Stevenson@URMC.rochester.edu
Congratulations to Our Graduating Fellows!

On Thursday, June 26th, we celebrated the accomplishments of our graduating fellows at a Fellowship Graduation Dinner held at Ballroom 384, a chic event space located in Rochester’s historic East Avenue district. See more photos on our Fellowship Facebook page.

ADOLESCENT MEDICINE - Katherine Blumoff Greenberg, M.D.

New Position

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Adolescent Medicine, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY

Publications


Grants/ Awards
• Dr. Barnett A. Slepain Memorial Fund Grant, $2,500 training grant, 1/14/12
• Medical Students for Choice Reproductive Health Externship Training Grant, $2,500 training grant, 1/6/12

CARDIOLOGY - Mohy Kotb, M.B.B.Ch.

Grants/Awards

• Fellow Teaching Award, presented by 4th year UR Medical Students for excellence in teaching, 2014

CARDIOLOGY - Rebecca Pratt, M.D.

New Position

Pediatric Cardiologist, Pediatric Cardiology Associates of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Publications


CRITICAL CARE - Amanda Hall, M.D.

New Position

Pediatric Cardiac Intensivist, Carolinas HealthCare System Medical Group, Charlotte, NC

Publications

CRITICAL CARE - Karen Sethi, M.D.

New Position

Pediatric Intensivist, St. Mary's Children's Hospital, Duluth, MN

Publications


GASTROENTEROLOGY/NUTRITION - Matthew Shields, M.D.

New Position

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics; Director of Medical Student and Resident Education, University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA

Publications


Grants/ Awards

- Fellow Teaching Award, presented by 4th year UR Medical Students for excellence in teaching, 2013

GASTROENTEROLOGY/NUTRITION - Vibha Sood, M.B.B.S.

New Position

Clinical Assistant Professor, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC

Publications


**Grants/ Awards**

- NIH T32 “Bench to Bedside to Curbside” grant award, 2012-2013
- Dean’s Fellowship award, 2013-2014
- Travel award to attend Digestive Disease Week, San Diego CA, 5/19-22/12
- Travel award to attend 26th Annual NASPGHAN meeting, Chicago IL, 10/9-12/13

---

**GENERAL PEDIATRICS - MacKenzi Hillard, M.D.**

**Grants/ Awards**

- APA Regions II & III Travel Grant for the annual regional meeting, presented on March 7, 2014, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY

---

**GENERAL PEDIATRICS - Sarah Ronis, M.D.**

**Publications**


**Grants/ Awards**

- Ohio Department of Medicaid, Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program (MedTAPP) Healthcare Access (HCA) Initiative SFY 14 and SFY 15 - Continuation and Expansion. “CaseCAN: Caregiver Preferences and Needs for Health IT-supported Care Coordination Services”, 20% salary support, Role: Faculty Scholar. Grant disposition will be available 6/13/14.
- Berg Award for Excellence in Public Health Sciences, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, 2014
• William Bradford Fellowship, Department of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, 2013

GENERAL PEDIATRICS - Andrew Sherman, M.D.

New Position

Pediatrician, Bay Creek Pediatrics, Rochester, NY

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY - Laila Mahmood, M.D., M.P.H.

New Position

Fellow, Capital Caring Palliative and Hospice Medicine Program, Washington Hospital Center, Washington DC.

Publications

Mahmood L, Klionsky N, Katzman P, Lee Y, Klein D, Bruckner L. Risk of misdiagnosing bilateral Wilms tumor in the absence of tissue confirmation. (Submitted)

Grants/Awards

• Hyundai Hope on Wheels 2012 Scholar. Hyundai Hope on Wheels / Hyundai Motor America. $75,000 salary over 2 years.

NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE - Ahmad El Samra, M.D.

Grants/Awards

• Gerber Foundation, The Effect of Prenatal Indomethacin on Kidney Function in Premature Infants. $20,000. Principal investigator, 6/2012
• Honorary, Bradford Fellow, Department of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, 2013-2014
• Travel Award, Academy of Pediatrics 82nd Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposium, 6/2013
NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE - Kunal Gupta, M.B.B.S.

Publications


Grants/ Awards

- Dean’s Fellowship Award, 2012-2013, 2013-2014
- Strong Children’s Research Center, Clausen Fellowship Award, $5,000, 2012-2013

NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE - Syed Shah, M.B.B.S.

New Position

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Neonatology Division, The University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX

Publication


Grants/ Awards

- NIH T32 Department of Pediatrics–Pediatric Research: Bench to Bedside to Curbside, 2011-2012
- ESPR Annual Meeting Travel Award, 2014
- PAS Annual Meeting Travel Award, 2014

PULMONOLOGY - Manvi Bansal, M.D.

New Position

Clinical Assistant Professor, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Published Abstract


Grants/ Awards

- PROP Scholar committee, PROP Scholar training grant, 10/22/13
- Dean’s Fellowship Award
- ATS Travel Award
- ESPR Travel award

Drs. Manvi Bansal and Fariba Rezaee