

CLASS NOTES

1953 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

Daniel J. Mason, of Coral Springs, FL, writes, "Sad that only two of our 75-member class are still with us. A wonderful group."

1956

Milton Ingberman, of New York, NY, is retired from a wonderful and rewarding 53-year career in otolaryngology.

1957

Arthur J. Florack, of Lake Wylie, SC, celebrated his 65th wedding anniversary on May 31. "Happy in retirement at age 90. We enjoy travel and are in reasonably good health. Ellie and I have four married children, 14 grandkids, six great grandkids, and three more on the way. Life is good," he writes.

1958 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

1959

Richard J. Lubera, of Grosse Pointe, MI, was invited to perform violin at an event on May 20

Kathy Donigan, Eliot Heaton, and Richard J. Lubera '59



that unveiled a midcentury modern masterpiece, the rediscovered and newly restored mural designed in 1952 by acclaimed architect and designer, Alexander Girard. He played with pianist Kathy Donigan and the concertmaster of the Detroit Opera, violinist Eliot Heaton. "I also feel very privileged to still have an active medical practice and be assisting my patients at my office and through the hospital," he writes. "My wife, Liz, and I both feel very blessed by our wonderful family, and we celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary on June 14."

1961

Howard R. Nankin, of Columbia, SC, enjoyed a visit with **Larry Weiner '70** and his wife Fran last winter, who stopped while driving from New Jersey to southern Florida.



Howard R. Nankin '61 and Larry Weiner '70

1962

Steven N. Berney, of Lafayette Hill, PA, and his wife, Hollis, have sold their Delray Beach vacation home and moved into an independent living facility in Lafayette Hill, a Philadelphia suburb.

He continues part-time in the rheumatology section at Temple University and is former section chief and a master of the American College of Rheumatology.

1963 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

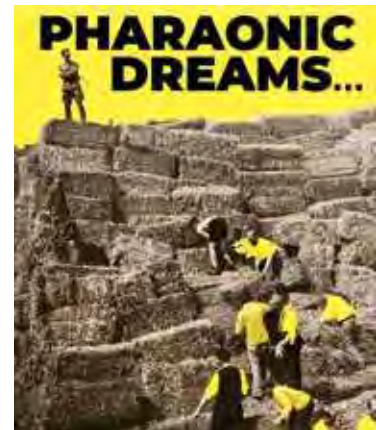
Michael A. Kirsch, of Encino, CA, is in his seventh year of retirement from his internal medicine practice. "One of my granddaughters just graduated from New York University Medical School, making the third generation of Kirsch MDs," he writes.

Carl Salzman, of Cambridge, MA, is still working and doing well.

Bruce Stewart, of Frostproof, FL, retired from his much-loved orthopedic practice in Ithaca 29 years ago and embarked on a series of adventures with his wife, Judy. "We spent eight winters on our catamaran Hairball in the Bahamas," he writes. "We traveled the Atlantic Intracoastal 22 times. We also traveled many places with Elderhostel and covered the U.S. in an RV. Life remains fun."

1964

Stanley B. Burns, of New York, NY, is an ophthalmologist and is well-known as a historian and collector of photography. In his 85th year, he is now recognized as an artist. Selected artworks from his project *Without Guilt Without Shame* will be exhibited next year in a major exhibition on Holocaust art. Born in 1938, World War II and the



PHARAONIC DREAMS, colorized photo by Stanley B. Burns '64

Holocaust were major influences on his life. He began collecting Holocaust documents in 1970 and regularly lectured on the subject of the fate of Jewish physicians in Poland and Germany. In 1975, he started collecting historical photography and, in 1977, founded the Burns Archive, which now consists of over one million photographs. In the early 21st century, he began using the photographs as the basis of artwork to present the Holocaust from a modern perspective by reconstructing, examining, and contextualizing the past. He digitizes, enlarges, colorizes, and adds words to the images to provide direction for understanding. The CEPA Gallery (The Center for Exploratory and Perceptual Arts) in Buffalo is including his work in a major comprehensive exhibition, *Photography & the Holocaust: Then and Now* (January-June 2024).



1965

Edward Lewis Goldberg, of San Diego, CA, who was a medical intern at Upstate during 1965-1966, has written a book, *Presidential Health Matters*. "There has been a long history of the intersection of medical events and political events," he shares. "The best example is that Woodrow Wilson's stroke and incapacity led to the failure of the U.S. to ratify the 1919 Treaty of Paris. I brought my perspective as a primary care physician, demanding the best care for the patient. How could 15 physicians examine President Garfield on the floor of a train station and think that was right. Where was the duty to care for the patient? I thought of all the great role models at Upstate who provided a guideline for

me: Drs. Rohner, Abildskov, Scheiss, Samson, Mueller, the Teppermans, and Harold Smulyan. Thanks, for the great education."

1966

John W. Petrozzi, of Had-donfield, NJ, and his wife, Dottie, will celebrate their 55th anniversary with a 14-day cruise from Tokyo to Hong Kong. "Although I am a high handicapper in golf, I almost shot my age last year, and I am still trying for my fourth hole in one," he writes. "What a great sport to be enjoying in my 16 years of retirement."

1967

Martin L. Cohen, of Morristown, NJ, is now officially retired. "Joan and I are snowbirds with our second home in Florida where we hosted **Charles Sitrin** and his wife, Jackie. We also spent time with them on our trip back to New Jersey. In Florida, I meet **Dan Nijadlik** for lunch. Sorry to have missed the last reunion but I look forward to the next one."

Robert S. Rhodes, of Audubon, PA, and wife Paula have moved into a retirement community and celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in June.

1968 Reunion

October 13-14, 2023

Robert L. Bard, of New York, NY, produced the Bard Diagnostics Education Series: How to Detect and Manage Inflammation the Non-Invasive Way. He also

presented Wound Healing in Skin of Color at the NIDI Spring Symposium VIII, Evidence-Based Dermatology Lecture that was held May 19-20.

Harvey K. Bucholtz, of South Orange, NJ, and **Michael H. Ratner** enjoyed a visit in New Jersey over the Passover holiday in April. They are looking forward to their special reunion in October.



Harvey K. Bucholtz '68 with Joan and Rissa and Michael H. Ratner '68

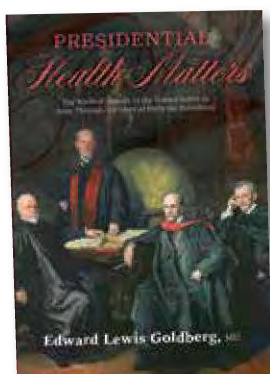
Kenneth J. Hoffer, of Santa Monica, CA, has introduced the Hoffer QST formula using AI for calculating intraocular lens implant power for cataract surgery and its free website www.HofferQST.com, as well as the new *IOL Power Club Open Access*, a 72-chapter textbook by Springer on biometry and IOL Power. The 50th Anniversary of the founding of the American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) in Santa Monica will be celebrated at its annual meeting in Boston, April 2024. The organization will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of its prestigious journal, the *Journal of Cata-*

ract & Refractive Surgery in Los Angeles in 2025. "At 80, I find I can still have some productive fun in this field," he writes.

Rick (Richard) B. Tenser, of Los Angeles, CA, wrote a book, *Neurovirology—Measuring, Interpreting and Understanding Viruses*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2023. "It is likely my academic swan song," he writes.

1969

Joan Tomaszewicz Dale, of Rochester, NY, writes, "Despite my age, I continue to enjoy traveling. In 2022, as soon as COVID restrictions were eased, I cruised the Rhine, treated my daughter to a 50th birthday cruise on the Seine because I wanted to visit the solitary peak in the sea that is Mont-Saint-Michel and to see Monet's gardens, and ended the year with a November wine cruise in Bordeaux."



Robert H. Osofsky, of Boca Raton, FL, and wife Susanne are now Florida residents, living at St. Andrews Country Club. They still spend five months of the year in Longmeadow, MA.

1970

Dominick Indindoli, of Plymouth, MA, is enjoying retirement fishing, golfing, and serving as the proud Papa of seven grandchildren, who are all fun and delightful. "I also enjoy cooking for family and friends and traveling with my wonderful wife," he writes.

Alexander E. Kuehl, of Amelia Island, FL, would like to express gratitude to the orthopedic surgeons and to Upstate Hospital who addressed his spinal stenosis emergency, and urges the medical alumni to be aware (both as patients and clinicians) to the growing 'epidemic' of amyloidosis, which is striking otherwise healthy older men. It is rarely diagnosed but may soon be easily treatable.

1971

Richard B. Bernstein, of Atlanta, GA, and wife Carol have a new granddaughter, Dylan Sophia.



Richard B. Bernstein '71 and his wife, Carol



Dylan Sophia, the granddaughter of Richard B. Bernstein '71

Daniel Rutrick, of West Newton, MA, switched from private practice psychiatry to research in clinical psychiatry 10 years ago. He is the medical director of Adams Clinical in Watertown, MA, which his son manages. His daughter does fundraising in Washington, DC, and his wife of 42 years is a family lawyer.

1972

Philip R. Caropreso, of Keokuk, IA, is a member of the American Legion Post 41 in Keokuk. "I was selected to be a member of the Honor Guard, which participates in burial ceremonies for veterans in Iowa's only nation VA cemetery," he writes. "Most recently I marched and fired my weapon during the Memorial Day honor event."

1973 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

Joseph Maloney, of Sacramento, CA, retired five years ago and still misses his pediatric practice. "I have 13 grandkids that fill the gap," he writes.

1974

Fess (Charles) Edwards, of San Diego, CA, writes, "Noel and I celebrated 48 years of marriage in August. We met in my third year at Upstate. I am semi-retired (surgery assists only) after 40 years of group practice with Scripps Clinic San Diego in the OB-GYN department. Noel is still working as the paramedic quality assurance advisor for the city

MICHAEL A. WEINER, MD '72

Fighting Childhood Cancer

When pediatric oncologist Michael Weiner, MD '72, graduated from medical school, nearly 90 percent of children diagnosed with cancer succumbed to their illness and died. Today, some 50 years later, the cure rate is close to 80 percent. "That shift happened during my lifetime in the specialty. To be one of the early enablers to contribute to that transformation is hugely rewarding," he says.

There was no pediatric oncologist on staff at Upstate while Weiner was in medical school. But he has a vivid memory of working alongside Arlan Gottlieb, MD, the head of medical oncology, when Dr. Gottlieb had to tell the parents of a five-year-old girl that she had leukemia, a diagnosis tantamount to a death sentence. "He's telling the parents of this beautiful little girl that there's really nothing that we can do," Weiner recalls. "I thought 'here's an opportunity to do something and make a difference.'"

Weiner completed a pediatric residency at Montefiore Medical Center in New York, followed by a fellowship in pediatric hematology-oncology at New York University and additional oncology training at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. At the time, the field of pediatric oncology was in its infancy; Weiner was among the second class of physicians completing fellowship that sat for the pediatric oncology board exam, becoming among the very first to be board certified in the subspecialty.

Weiner has spent his entire career in New York, primarily at Columbia University and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. In 1996, he was appointed the Hettinger Professor of Pediatrics and director of pediatric oncology at Columbia University Medical Center, serving in that position until 2016, when he became a vice chair of pediatrics and part of the five-member department executive committee.

Weiner has written more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and abstracts, is the co-author of *Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Secrets* (Elsevier, 2001, 2023), and led the national Children's Oncology Group Hodgkin's disease committee. Although he devised a chemotherapy regimen for osteosarcoma in the 1980s that remains the backbone of treatment today, his clinical interests primarily involved the care of children with leukemia and lymphoma, caring for nearly 1,000 children with hematological malignancies.



Wynne and Michael A. Weiner, MD '72

But his efforts haven't been limited to clinical care. In 1996, Weiner founded the Hope & Heroes Children's Cancer Fund (HHCF), a nonprofit to support patient care, clinical trials, research, and education, which has raised more than \$100 million to date for child and adolescent cancer initiatives, supporting five endowed chairs, a fellowship program, and an integrative therapies program that allows patients and families to access adjunct types of therapies such as nutritional support, and mind-body therapies like reiki and acupuncture. "We were the very first division in the country to do that, and that program continues to be the benchmark to which others are compared," he says.

Weiner admits that he largely applied to medical school to receive exemption from the Vietnam War and that he was not an exemplary student once he arrived. He attributes his acumen in his field to having a very high emotional quotient. "I was able to speak with patients and families like few others, to find a vital core of connection that resonated," he says.

In a cruel twist of fate, Weiner was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma in 2018. And then his daughter was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. After decades working in the field, he suddenly had a new intimacy and perspective on the disease.

Weiner channeled those experiences—as well as his decades as a pediatric oncologist—into a book, *Living*

"Funding for clinical trials is scarce. Our goal is to provide physician scientists an opportunity to pursue groundbreaking work that will help us move the needle to improve the cure."

Cancer: Stories of an Oncologist, Father, Survivor (Atlantic Publishing Group, 2020). "Cancer is a horrible disease. What I've realized is that even in remission, the anxiety doesn't go away. I experience it myself every time I go to have a blood test or CT scan to determine whether or not my disease is in fact in remission, it's terrifying."

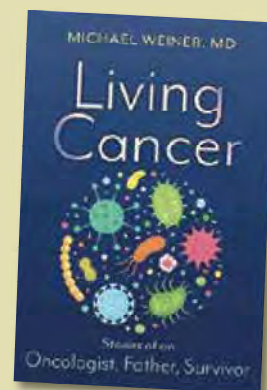
That fear helps fuel his continued fight. Although he retired from medical practice in 2022, Weiner helped spearhead creation of the Hope & Heroes Research Initiative earlier this year, a seven-institution consortium to advance research and treatments for childhood cancer. "Funding for clinical trials is scarce. Our goal is to provide physician scientists an opportunity to pursue groundbreaking work that will help us move the needle to improve the cure," he says.

Two trials are already underway. The first is exploring genetic predisposition, sequencing variants that patients with cancer harbor within their genetic code that can predict who will develop cancer. "It's been shown in some adults to be the case, but it's not been studied in children," says Weiner.

The second trial is looking at genetic variants that allow patients to be receptive to chemotherapy or immunotherapy and have a successful outcome. "There are variants that are known to inhibit these treatments from working, so we're trying to identify those in the hope that we can manipulate them to make the therapy more effective," he says.

"We have more than 150 physician scientists over seven institutions working on these trials," says Weiner. "That will be my legacy."

—Renée Gearhart Levy



CLASS NOTES



Fess Edwards '74 and Noel

of San Diego. We have one son practicing anesthesia in Bethesda, and another son practicing administrative medical law in San Diego. Our youngest son died of a fentanyl overdose five years ago after struggling with substance abuse for 20 years. We finally got a granddaughter a few years ago after six grandsons. I am still involved in my passion of skydiving now for 35 years. We just set a world record for jumpers over 60 years old with a 101-person formation. I also volunteer at the San Diego Zoo, teaching guests about Sumatran tigers and African cheetahs, as well as volunteering one afternoon a week at a local food bank. We exercise almost every day riding bikes around a local lake. I ride about 25 miles, but Noel does 40 miles per day. Not bad for a couple of 70-year-olds."

1975

Joseph A. Cincotta, of Wellsville, PA, returned to Upstate in 2018 to be part of the team that started the Upstate Family Medicine Residency Program, but retired at the end of 2021. "I am pleased to report the residency program is thriving and growing," he

reports. "The second group of third-year residents will graduate in June and the residency again filled in the 2023 Match for a new class of first-year residents to start in July. After a few months of retirement, I returned to action to pay it forward by volunteering at the Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, to help teach first-year medical students in their Problem-Based Learning course. It is a privilege and a blessing as well as an opportunity to interact with students and perhaps influence a few of them to pursue a career in family medicine."

Phillip Gioia, of Auburn, NY, is working with the PNHP.org, the AAP.org, MSSNY.org, and NYSPHA.org to help create a health promoting system similar to that suggested by <https://www.nationalacademies.org/> in emerging stronger from COVID-19. Pediatrics



Philip Gioia '75 and Warren Seigel, MD

cian **Eve Shapiro '76** had a webinar June 21 with Dr. Rhea Boyd, Dr. Jane Oski (Dr. Frank Oski's daughter), Dr. Marian Earls, and Dr. Phil Verhoef, co-moderated by Dr. Sanjeev Sriram.

Joseph W. Helak, of Wilmington, NC, is mostly retired. "I welcomed a new grandson in March. Many blessings," he writes.

1977

Larry Consenstein, of Waitsfield, VT, and wife **Celeste** have been living in Mad River Valley, VT, for several years. "We were drawn here by our ski racing, then coaching daughter, and we found a great community of friends," he writes. "About five years ago, Celeste had a bad ski accident, with a spinal cord injury and destruction of her left brachial plexus. She's doing well despite that, though life can be frustrating. I'm still working a little, doing locums neonatology out of state one to two days a month. We now have grandchildren; twin boys to our son, a family practice doctor in Maryland, and a new little girl to our daughter in Vail, CO."



The twin sons of Caleb M. Cosenstein '17, grandsons of Larry Cosenstein '77 and Celeste M. Madden '77. At right, Celeste with daughter Alyssa and granddaughter Oakley.

William R. Latreille, of Malone, NY, was re-elected as Speaker of the Medical Society of the State of New York on April 23. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and a specialist in adult and adolescent medicine. He continues his active practice in Malone, and one day weekly at the Indian Health Service Clinic in Hogansburg (Akwesasne), NY. He has also been designated as a senior aviation medical examiner by the Federal Aviation Administration to perform flight physical examinations and issue aviation medical certificates for class 1, 2 and 3 pilots.

1978 Reunion

October 13-14, 2023

1980

Margot L. Fass, of Rochester, NY, is an activist, artist, author, educator, presenter, and psychiatrist. "A Frog House is a center, located on the Erie Canal for local advocacy, worldwide collaboration, and ecological education. We work on behalf of amphibians and

Michael Lustick, '78, of West Haven, CT, writes "I am continuing to practice child and adolescent psychiatry by consulting to schools throughout Connecticut. I will forever be grateful to Upstate for providing me the opportunity to study medicine. Working as a child psychiatrist has been one of the great gifts in my life. In my off time, I can be seen carrying my golf clubs around courses, still trying to shoot my age! Best wishes to all my classmates!"



Margot L. Fass '80

the citizens of upstate New York, advocating for chemical-free properties, clean water, and healthy wetlands. Our projects include planting trees, restoring vital habitats, and building frog ponds. We offer workshops and events for all ages to learn about the crucial role of frogs in the environment and to educate people about methods of environmental protection that they can get involved in. For more information visit afroghouse.org or contact me directly at Margot@AFrogHouse.org."

Alexander E. Weingarten, of Hollis, NY, continues to practice pain management and anesthesia on Long Island. "I remain a dinosaur

in private practice among large hospital network practices," he writes. "My practice is busy, and I enjoy my specialty."

1981

Richard M. Steinbruck, of Staten Island, NY, left private surgical practice after 30-plus years, and for five years has been full-time faculty and site director for surgery at Staten Island University Hospital's Prince's Bay campus. He and his wife, Laurie, have been together more than 40 years, and have three children and two grandchildren. "Not yet ready for retirement," he writes.

1982

Lynn E. Miller, of East Syracuse, NY, retired several years ago from a very satisfying and rewarding medical career spent mostly as an urgent care physician. Her son, Michael, is 29 years old, and a successful local business owner. It was his colic as a baby that started her journey in homeopathic medicine. The colic stopped overnight after she gave a homeopathic remedy.

She is now able to devote concentrated and dedicated time to her strong interest and passion for homeopathy, a discipline all its own that she has been studying on and off for more than 25 years. She is currently completing the two final clinical years at the Northwestern Academy of Homeopathy and will be graduating from its four-year training program at the end of 2023. She also enjoys training and competing with her two-year old Danish-Swedish farmdog. She is looking forward to spending more time traveling in her RV in the coming year and enjoys trading stocks and options. She is an avid cyclist and cross-country skier and coordinates a local group of mostly retirees who cycle about 30 miles every Friday morning in season. It was in her first year of medical school that she did her initial long-distance bicycle ride, and she has been riding ever since. "I am taking the road less traveled. I am very happy to be making a significant difference and at the same time to be enjoying life fully."



Archie and JJ, grandsons of John C. Morris '82

John C. Morris, of North Bethesda, MD, is happy to report that his wife, Laura, and their kids are well, and they are overjoyed about the arrival of their first grandchildren, Archie and JJ (Jack John). The twins arrived early and unexpectedly late Thanksgiving Eve to daughter Caroline and her husband, Mike. After a little touch and go, they are both thriving. Caroline is a nurse anesthetist at the University of San Antonio Medical Center in Texas and very busy in the O.R. Their son, Brian, is a civilian employee of the U.S. Navy

CLASS NOTES

and is completing his second year of law school at American University in Washington, DC. Laura continues to work for a third-party pension provider with the benefit that her firm switched to a full-time work-from-home model. "Due to a serious infection, I had to curtail clinical activities and research and am contemplating retirement. It is amazing how fast a career goes by," he writes. "I really miss my days at Upstate and my residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City."

1983 Reunion

October 13-14, 2023



Deborah Young Bradshaw '84, her son-in-law Jeremy Harding, daughter Grace, and her husband, Michael Owen

1984

Deborah Young Bradshaw, of Jamesville, NY, stepped down after 16 years as the neurology residency program director at Upstate and went to working three

days a week. "That means 40-50 hours instead of 70-80," she writes. "My main purpose in cutting back was to spend more time writing. I have a certificate degree in creative nonfiction from the Downtown Writer's Center and am working on a memoir of my family, encompassing three generations of dairy farmers in upstate New York. I row competitively with the Syracuse Chargers to stay in shape. My two daughters are grown, one married, and doing well. Life is good."

Holly D. Kent, of Bayfield, CO, shares, "Retirement is great. We have moved from Arizona back to Colorado in the southwest mountains. We are growing vegetables, fruit trees and berry bushes. Hoping to get **Lydia Grose-close** and **Linda Burrell** here for a visit!"

1986

James B. Carroll, of Bakersville, NC, is nearing 33 years in practice at Bakersville Community Health Center, the founding clinic for Mountain Community Health Center, a FQHC, where he serves as staff physician and quality director. "I have a few years to go before retirement," he writes. "When I'm not trying to catch up on chart records, my wife Bev and I enjoy travelling, mainly to South Carolina beaches and Scotland. Currently we have two cats as our 'children.' My favorite hobbies are cycling and hiking the western North Carolina mountains around Bakersville and in Scotland."



Elizabeth A. Prezio '86 and her daughter, Sarah Whitney Jenkins, MD

Elizabeth A. Prezio, of Clifton Park, NY, is proud to share that her daughter, Sarah Whitney Jenkins, MD, was awarded the Don Powell Excellence in internal medicine residency at the completion of her third year of internal medicine training at the University of Texas Medical Branch on June 2. In addition, she will be serving as chief resident in internal medicine through July 2024.

1987

Joseph T. Flynn, of Seattle, WA, is happy to announce the publication of the 5th edition of his textbook, *Pediatric Hypertension*, in January 2023. "Never thought we would make it to another edition, but we did," he writes.

Marty (Martin) J. Heslin, of Fairhope, AL, is the Mitchell Cancer Institute director at the University of South Alabama in Mobile after 25 years at UAB in

Birmingham, AL as a surgical oncologist. "I keep up with **Mark D'Esposito** with golf once a year," he writes. "My wife and I like living on the gulf coast in Fairhope, but far from friends and family in New York. I have three sons: one is a general surgery intern at University of Texas Southwest in Dallas, one an accountant in Atlanta, and one in construction science in Auburn. Come visit if in LA (lower Alabama)."

John J. Walker, of Saint Johns, FL, is enjoying retired life after practicing gastroenterology, participating in medical leadership positions, and most recently, starting up a whole person telemedicine company, ReviveHealth. He is exploring his passions of Italian language, Italian wine, and exercise.



Teresa J. Karcnik-Mahoney '88, Catherine Ann Mahoney, MD, MPH, Mary Teresa Mahoney '23, and Raymond Mahoney

1988 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

Teresa J. Karcnik-Mahoney, of Middletown, NY, writes, "I traveled to Syracuse and hooded my daughter, **Mary Teresa Mahoney '23**, at commencement! We're 'all in the family' at Upstate Medical University: daughter Catherine Ann Mahoney, MD, MPH, commences PGY2 internal medicine residency at Upstate. It was also great seeing fellow classmates **Claire Bolon** and **Mike J. Lastihenos** with their new physician graduates as well! Hope to attend our 35th year reunion in October!"

1989

Stephen R. Weinman, of New Paltz, NY, writes, "My medical center has a new support animal. Nala had come to the office a couple of times and was so well received that she now comes

every day I am working. She knows how to open doors and will often make the rounds of the office to say hello to patients and staff. We warn patients and ask if they are okay with dogs, and only rarely does a patient not want a visit. Having a dog in the office seems to make everyone more comfortable, and if I forget to bring her the staff gives me a hard time. No doubt if they had to choose between myself and Nala, they would choose the friendly husky."

Stephen R. Weinman '89 with Nala



Russell Bird '93

1993 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

Russell Bird, of Louisville, KY, was elected board chair of Seven Counties Services, Kentucky's leading community mental health center and behavioral health services provider. He has volunteered on the board for more than five years and is proud to support its mission to provide social safety net services, substance abuse treatment, and much more to the 30,000 plus clients served. In addition, for almost 20 years, he has practiced as a family physician as part of the Baptist Health Louisville Medical Group.

1994

Andria N. Chizner and **Michael A. Swerdin**, of Hewlett, NY, recently celebrated the graduation of their daughter, **Hanna R. Swerdin '23** in May, from Upstate Medical University. Hanna began her pediatric residency at New York Presbyterian (NYP)-Cornell in July. Andria is a pediatrician with NYP Medical Group and assistant professor of pediatrics at Weill Cornell and Michael is an ophthalmologist in private practice on Long Island. They have two other daughters, Sarah and Julia. Sarah is a PsyD candidate at St. John's University and Julia is a sophomore at Georgetown University.



Julia Swerdin, Mack Portnoy, Hanna R. Swerdin '23, Andria N. Chizner '94, Michael A. Swerdin '94, and Sarah Swerdin

Jason Lok, of Manlius, NY, was elected the 2023 New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSSA) president.

CLASS NOTES

1996

Valerie K. Merl, of Los Alamos, NM, writes "**Karen A. Williams** and I are still two dopey docs after 27 years!"



Karen A. Williams '96 and Valerie K. Merl '96

1997

Shinette Sirmans-McRae, of Burlington, NJ, was appointed medical director of Merakey Behavioral Health Clinic located in Philadelphia.

1998 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

2000

Kate (Kathleen) O'Leary, shares, "I'm still happily living in Pawleys Island, SC, fully retired! I am going to vacation to Newfoundland later this summer. Going with a friend who wants to 'Follow the Vikings!' I'm just along for the ride and hiking in Gros Morne National Park."

2001

Kelly M. Willman, of Mays Landing, NJ, was appointed trauma medical director of AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey.



Kelly M. Willman '01

2003 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

2004

Kenar D. Jhaveri, of Great Neck, NY, started a fellowship program called the Galdi Fellowship in Oncology Nephrology and Glomerular Diseases at Northwell Health. This is an endowed third-year expanded fellowship within nephrology. He is also being awarded the Distinguished Leader Award at the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) in 2023. ASN established the Midcareer Awards Program in 2019 to recognize midcareer clinicians, educators, health professionals, and researchers who have made outstanding contributions to nephrology and/or demonstrated exemplary service to the society. The award presentation will take place at ASN Kidney Week 2023, held in November in Philadelphia.

New Scholarship Honors the Memory of Andre de Corla-Souza, MD '00

A scholarship endowment has been created in memory of Andre de Corla-Souza, MD '00, who died on July 19, 2009, after a two-and-a-half-year heroic battle with colon cancer.

Dr. "Dre" grew up in India, Bahrain, and New York. He earned his undergraduate degree at SUNY Binghamton, his medical degree at Upstate Medical University, then completed residency at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, New York, and a fellowship at North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System, Manhasset, NY. He was certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, critical care medicine, sleep medicine, and dive medicine.

De Corla-Souza was married in September 2005 to Namita Kedia, MD. They adopted a puppy the following year, named Che. After that he and Che were inseparable. He had a passion for all things outdoorsy—including motorcycles, hunting, hiking, scuba diving, and kayaking.

After being diagnosed with Stage IV colon



Andre de Corla-Souza, MD '00, hiking the Inca Trail, Peru, in 2006

cancer in 2007, he continued to live life to the fullest. He traveled with his wife to Peru, Alaska, Spain, Thailand, India, and numerous locations in the United States.

De Corla-Souza had the utmost respect for his profession and worked until he no longer had the ability to do so. Namita has said that, even

though he faced many obstacles to becoming a physician, he felt they were worth the joy of practicing medicine. Although he didn't get to practice medicine long, he truly loved being a physician. He is remembered by classmates as a funny, charismatic, intelligent man with an infectious smile and a bright outlook on life.

Beginning in 2025, the annual scholarship will be awarded to a medical student to help defray the cost of travel associated with educational and career goals. It has been said that de Corla Souza's love of life was contagious and the best way to honor him would be for each of us to live our lives to the fullest. This scholarship will honor his memory by helping future recipients explore opportunities to experience the world in new ways through travel.

If you would like to donate visit: <https://medalumni.upstate.edu/scholarshipgifts>.

MATTHEW LIEPKE, MD '00

Managing Military Medical Readiness

Matthew Liepke, MD '00, arrived at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in March 2020 to spend eight months as Division Surgeon of the U.S. Army 42nd Infantry Division during its deployment in the Middle East. As a member of the New York Army National Guard, it was not Dr. Liepke's first deployment. He served in Iraq with the 466th Area Support Medical Company in 2007, providing medical care to soldiers at a small outpost, and in Afghanistan with the 402nd Military Police Battalion in 2011, where he provided medical care to detainees.

But nothing could have prepared him for the impact of a worldwide pandemic. "A week after I arrived, everything shut down," he recalls. The 42nd Division headquarters was tasked to command the Covid Response at Army Bases in the Middle East under Army Central Command. Liepke and his team, managed the medical aspect of the U.S. Army's COVID-19 response in six countries and 14 bases across the Middle East.

"Many of these places had only a small clinic with a single physician or a PA," he says. "When faced with a patient with COVID-19, our initial protocol was to send these patients to local facilities in these countries where they could be treated. But it didn't take long for those places to become overwhelmed."

In response, the Air Force developed airplanes that were outfitted with ICU level care, equipped to keep patients under quarantine while being evacuated out of theater. "They picked patients up from only a few locations and brought them to Germany, where they could be isolated and cared for," says Liepke. "The protocols to care and transport service members, families, and civilian employees until evacuation was our responsibility."

"It was my job to make sure everybody had the resources needed to fight COVID-19, make sure that the care was appropriate, and make sure everyone was following the proper protocols," he says.

Back home, Liepke's wife, Christina Liepke, MD '00, was also undergoing trial by fire as medical director of the Oswego County Health Department, while also managing the couple's medical practice, Port City Family Medicine, and the couple's two then-teenaged sons. "It was a rough time," Liepke says.

He signed up for the Army Reserves at 18 as a source of adventure and to earn money for college. He attended Clarkson University and then came to Upstate Medical University, where he met Christina. The couple did residencies at Wright State University; she in family medicine and he in combined medicine/pediatrics. After completing their training, they moved to Oswego, New York, where they opened their practice.

Concurrent with his education and medical training, Liepke served for 11 years as an enlisted soldier before earning a commis-



Matthew Liepke MD '00, with his wife, Christina Liepke, MD '00, and their sons



sion as a captain in the Individual Ready Reserve in 2003.

After returning to New York in 2005, Liepke transferred to the New York Army National Guard and served as the brigade surgeon for the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and a surgeon assigned to the 466th Area Support Medical Company, and in various roles with the Medical Command. He served as the New York Army National Guard State Surgeon from 2016 to 2019, the organization's top medical advisor.

In July 2021, after his return from Kuwait, he took command of the New York Army National Guard's Medical Command, which oversees medical operations and healthcare issues for the 10,500 members of the New York Army National Guard across the state. "We make sure our soldiers are ready for deployment, or if there are medical issues, we come up with treatment solutions to fix it or else process orders for disability or separation," says Liepke, whose military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He is currently attending the Army War College and holds an MBA from Quinnipiac University.

"I like variety," says Liepke, who, in addition to his medical practice, is director of the Newborn Nursery at Oswego Hospital and a past president and vice president of the Oswego Hospital medical staff. "I get bored if I do the same thing all of the time. My military involvement has allowed me to serve while giving me experiences I'd never have had otherwise."

—Renée Gearhart Levy

CLASS NOTES

Farzad Sarmast, of Fayetteville, NY, writes "After many years in emergency rooms and urgent cares, Justin Fedore and **Eleni Kosmas '01** encouraged me to give primary care at the Syracuse VA a try. I can say I am happy they did. What's not to love about 30-minute visits with veterans of all ages who have war stories and generally like to talk about cars, boats, and man caves. I feel at home. Cheers!"

2005

Elissa G. Yozawitz, of Bronx, NY, recently published a paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on recent advances in classification and treatment of neonatal seizures.

2008 Reunion

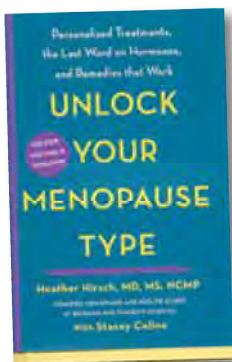
October 13•14, 2023

2009

Ijeoma Anyanwu-Emamezi, of Bronx, NY, and her husband welcomed their first child, son Noah Victory Emamezi on May 14.

2010

Heather Hirsch, of Pittsford, NY, published her first book, *Unlock Your Menopause Type* (St. Martin's Press, 2023) and was featured alongside Oprah Winfrey, Drew Barrymore, and Maria Shriver for Oprah's *Live Your Best Life* series. She recently opened a telemedicine practice focusing on women's health in midlife and menopause. Learn more at heatherhirschmd.com.



2013 Reunion

October 13•14, 2023

Justin P. Meyer and **Jenny A. Meyer**, of Jamesville, NY, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lana Beth Meyer, born on March 9. Big brother Pike is three years old. They both work at Upstate, in psychiatry and neurology (respectively). "We are looking forward to the Reunion in October," they write.



Lana Meyer, daughter of Jenny A. Meyer '13 and Justin P. Meyer '13. At right, Lana with big brother Pike.

2017

Brandon Simonetta, of Tempe, AZ, will be completing a spine surgery fellowship at Sonoran Spine in Arizona this July and joining The Orthopedic Clinic surgery group in Daytona Beach, Florida starting in August.



Brandon Simonetta '17

2019

David A. DiStefano, of West Henrietta, NY, writes, "**Matt Barra '19**, **Clarke Cady-McCrea '21**, **Pat Castle '22** and myself, are current orthopedic residents at the University of Rochester. We were all on call one weekend, forming a SUNY powerhouse team tackling the trauma call over a busy weekend. We are all proud of the grittiness that



Heather Hirsch '10 (third from right) appeared on Oprah's *Live Your Best Life*, to discuss menopause medical care.



Matt Barra '19, Clarke Cady-McCrea '21, Pat Castle '22, and Dave DiStefano '19

going to a state medical school has instilled in us and feel that quality has helped us thrive in residency. The photo is of us in the ED call room we affectionately call 'the pit.'"

2023

Mary T. Mahoney, of Middletown, NY, shares a photo from commencement this past May. "Three classmates of the graduating class of 2023 were hooded by their parents who were all Upstate College of Medicine class of 1988 classmates, small world!"



Christopher J. Lastihenos '23, Michael Lastihenos '88, Teresa J. Karcnik-Mahoney '88, Mary T. Mahoney '23, Claire Bolon '88, and Emily D. Speck '23

Residents

John M. Barry, of Portland, OR, was elected president of the Clinical Society of Genitourinary Surgeons.

Nathaniel John Castro, of Sartell, MN, was made chief of cardiac surgery at the Centracare Heart and Vascular Center in central Minnesota in October 2019.



Nathaniel John Castro, HS '08

The center was doing 500 pump cases a year before the pandemic.

Melissa L. Jones, of Peckville, PA, became engaged to Michael Zschoche in July 2022. She is a ballroom dancer and recently won two competitions. She competes in Bronze American Smooth, which is waltz, tango, foxtrot, and Viennese waltz. She won a regional competition in Greenwich, CT, in February and the larger interregional competition in Mystic, CT in May. She moved back home to Pennsylvania after being away for 13 years and is excited to be near family and to begin a new job in June as an outpatient pediatrician at the Honesdale Pediatric Center in Honesdale.

Betsy (Elizabeth) Rosenthal, of Larchmont, NY, has been retired for nine years from her dermatology practice and remains active in the NY Metro chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program. She is delighted with her three granddaughters.

Jeffrey S. Sneider, of Jamesville, NY, retired from clinical out-patient practice in July 2019. He is still working at Menorah Park, a nursing home, and is active with the County and State medical societies.