

UPSTATE MEDICAL

Alumni JOURNAL

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A portrait of Margareta Pisarska, MD '92, a woman with long brown hair, smiling and wearing a black long-sleeved top. She is standing outdoors with a blurred background of trees and a path.

CHAMPIONS OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

Margareta Pisarska, MD '92,
is director of reproductive
endocrinology and infertility
at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center



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AUTUMN 2022 ISSUE

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ON THE COVER:
Margareta Pisarska, MD '92, is director of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Photo courtesy Cedars-Sinai.



August 2, 2022

Dear Norton College of Medicine Alumni and Friends,

The recent *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court has upended the availability of reproductive services for many women across the country. The abortion ruling controversy has also hit close to home. You may have heard that Upstate-alumna **Dr. Caitlin Bernard, Class of 2010**, who also completed her residency at Upstate, is in the national spotlight for providing an abortion to a 10-year-old rape victim last month and is now the subject of an investigation by the Indiana attorney general. Indeed, as *The New York Times* pointed out in its July 28 story on Dr. Bernard's case, the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* "has created a frightening new legal landscape for doctors." Thankfully in New York state, lawmakers have put protections in place so that abortion services and contraception remain legally available to those seeking this medical service.

We want to reiterate that the Norton College of Medicine strongly supports comprehensive reproductive health services including abortion and family planning education and training, and we will continue to include these topics as part of our medical school curriculum. We will also support our academic medical center as it continues to offer a full array of women's health services to all, understanding that obstetrics and family planning services are essential elements of equitable health care, and that we accommodate people from other states who seek this service here legally.

We will work with our affiliated associations—AAFP, ACOG and APGO—to ensure that this important aspect of medical education and training remains available to all students. Lastly, we offer our support to all members of the Upstate family and particularly Dr. Bernard who work to provide health care services to those most in need.

We appreciate the advocacy of our alumni, students, faculty, and staff on this pressing issue and are committed to further discussion. We are proud of all of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence S. Chin".

Lawrence S. Chin, MD, FAANS, FACS
Dean, Norton College of Medicine
Robert B. and Molly G. King Endowed Professor of Neurosurgery

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Corona".

Robert Corona, DO, MBA
CEO, Upstate University Hospital
John B. Henry Professor of Pathology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mantosh Dewan".

Mantosh Dewan, MD
President, Upstate Medical University
SUNY Distinguished Service Professor

Upstate Graduates First Family Medicine Residents

IN 2019, Upstate Medical University welcomed the first class of residents to a new Family Medicine residency program created to combat the national shortage of primary care providers. On June 11, the program celebrated the first graduates from the three-year program.

Program Director R. Eugene Bailey, MD '89, said the inaugural class exceeded all expectations.

“We were looking for residents who could bring passion, a strong work ethic, and certainly a desire to serve our community especially regarding diversity and an equity of healthcare,” he says. “We were also looking for innovation with our residents and a spirit of trailblazing. All five residents went above and beyond our expectations for our first class.”

The inaugural graduates are Jorge Alvarenga-Montoya, MD '19, Bushra Atta Ur Rehman, MBBS, Rahila Iftikhar, MBBS, Akifa Nazim, MBBS, and Kyrsten Wallace, MD, chief resident.

“One of the strengths in our residency program is the breath of cultures and experiences

that our residents bring. Many of them have already overcome many challenges in their personal lives and they bring a certain amount of resilience we felt we needed for our initial class,” says Bailey.

All the graduates will remain in Central New York. Atta Ur Rehman, Wallace, and Iftikhar are joining the Upstate Family Residency Program as faculty. Nazim will do a one-year fellowship in geriatrics at Upstate and Alvarenga-Montoya is joining Family Care Medical Group in Camillus.

The Upstate program was one of 40 new family residency programs started across the nation in 2019 and receives as many as 2,500 applications annually for six spots.

“We are very appreciative that Upstate had the vision to establish this program,” says Bailey. “Upstate has been very, very supportive and totally invested in the mission to increase primary care in Central New York.”



Members of the inaugural graduating class of the Family Medicine Residency Program are, from left, Rahila Iftikhar, MBBS, Bushra Atta Ur Rehman, MBBS, Akifa Nazim, MBBS, Kyrsten Wallace, MD, chief resident; and Jorge Alvarenga-Montoya, MD '19



Celebrating a Half Century of Service

Upstate faculty members Eugene Kaplan, MD '57, and Shawky Badawy, MD, HS '73—were recognized for more than a half century of service to Upstate Medical University at the University's annual Employee Recognition Day event in June.

Drs. Kaplan and Badawy were among more than 1,100 Upstate employees who gathered in person for the event, which for the last two years was held remotely due to pandemic precautions.

Kaplan earned his medical degree from Upstate in 1957 and joined the faculty in 1961. It's estimated that he taught more than 3,500 medical students. Kaplan became director of the psychiatry residency program in 1969 and served as chair of the Psychiatry Department from 1984 to 1999, during which he expanded and improved undergraduate and graduate teaching programs. He died on July 17; his obituary appears on page 31.

Badawy came to Upstate in 1972. He was pursued at the time by several other medical centers but chose to begin his career at Upstate. His career included service as the chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and his work as a sought-after clinician and researcher on endometriosis. He also founded the reproductive endocrine specialty at Upstate.



Eugene Kaplan, MD '57



Auyon Ghosh, MD '14, MPH

Upstate Physician awarded \$50,000 grant for sarcoidosis research

Upstate Medical University physician Auyon Ghosh, MD '14, MPH, has been awarded a \$50,000 American Thoracic Society (ATS)/Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research Grant. The grant comes from the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR), the leading international nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving care for sarcoidosis patients.

Sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that affects multiple organs in the body, but mostly the lungs and lymph glands. In people with sarcoidosis, abnormal masses or nodules (called granulomas) consisting of inflamed tissues form in certain organs of the body. These granulomas

may alter the normal structure and possibly the function of the affected organ(s).

Dr. Ghosh's project, "Gene expression signatures of extrapulmonary sarcoidosis," will look to identify possible genes, particularly from a part of the cell machinery called mitochondria, which could be associated with multi-organ sarcoidosis.

"I'm hopeful that this project and my future work will help people with sarcoidosis for years to come," said Ghosh. "I am so honored to be this year's recipient of the ATS/FSR Partnership Grant. This award will provide me vital support as an early career physician-scientist studying this debilitating disease."

Brangman Honored with 2022 Edward Henderson Award

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) celebrates Sharon A. Brangman, MD '81, as recipient of the 2022 Edward Henderson Award for her research and clinical achievements in geriatrics, particularly for her work in Alzheimer's disease, hospice and palliative medicine, depression, and end of life care.

Dr. Brangman delivered the Society's Henderson State-of-the-Art Lecture at the AGS 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting. Her message focused on the importance of including older adults who have historically been excluded or even exploited in medical research.

"Dr. Brangman has long been a prominent AGS leader. Currently, she is most focused on working toward a future of healthcare that is free of discrimination and bias," says AGS President Peter Hollmann, MD. "She has helped us understand how destructive structural racism and ageism are, particularly within a health context, and through AGS, she works toward creating strategies our membership can use to counter these biases on behalf of older adults."

Brangman is a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics at Upstate Medical University and serves as director of the Upstate Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease.

Like the geriatrician for whom her award is named, Brangman has selflessly shared her talent and energy



Sharon A. Brangman, MD '81

with the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). She was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Geriatrics Society for 10 years and completed terms as Society president and board chair. She is also a past president of the Association of Directors of Geriatrics Academic Programs. Brangman currently serves as a member of the board of the Health in Aging Foundation.

Endowed Lecture in Trauma Surgery established to honor William Marx



William H. Marx, DO

LONG-TIME UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY physician William H. Marx, DO, helped define trauma care both at Upstate and throughout New York state during his 30-year career.

Now, the Upstate Department of Surgery will honor and perpetuate his legacy by establishing the Dr. William H. Marx Endowed Lecture in Trauma Surgery at the Upstate Foundation.

Marx died unexpectedly in February. He had served as the division chief for trauma, burns, and acute care surgery services, as well as the trauma medical director and surgical director of perioperative services. During the height of

COVID, he was responsible for deciding which patients were eligible for surgery at Upstate based on medical necessity and time.

Marx also served as chair of the New York State Trauma Advisory Committee, chair of the Verification Review Committee and was a member of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. He was instrumental in the creation of new trauma center standards to be released this year.

"His legacy at Upstate and beyond is a profound one," said Robert Cooney, MD, chair of Upstate's Department of Surgery.

Marx joined the faculty at Upstate Medical University in 1993. He co-founded Upstate's Level 1 trauma center, the only one in the Central New York region.

Upstate Redesignated as Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease

THE DEPARTMENT OF GERIATRICS at Upstate Medical University has been redesignated as a New York State Department of Health Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease.

"We are thrilled that this five-year, \$2.3 million award will allow us to continue our work in providing high quality dementia care to the people of Central New York," says Distinguished Service Professor Sharon Brangman, MD '81, who also serves as chair of the Department of Geriatrics and director of the Center for Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease.

The award also supports the education

and training of students at Upstate and has an active clinical trials program for evaluating emerging drugs for this disease.

The Upstate center consists of an interdisciplinary team of healthcare providers who served more than 4,500 people last year by providing diagnosis, management, and support services for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

The Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease serves as a regional resource serving 14 counties, providing coordinated delivery of services to patients and their families.

Marx also served veterans as the chief of staff at the Syracuse VA Medical Center and mentored generations of medical students and surgical residents in their careers.

The endowed lecture will provide funding for a visiting professor and nationally known trauma surgeon to visit Upstate, give a lecture on care of the injured patient, and support career development of residents and faculty as trauma surgeons.

Ann Botash Recognized for Work in Child Abuse Pediatrics

Ann Botash, MD '85, a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and professor of pediatrics who directs Upstate's Division of Child Abuse Pediatrics and the Child Abuse Referral and Evaluation Program, has been awarded a Special Recognition Certificate from the American Academy of Pediatrics in recognition of her work with child abuse issues and educational leadership.

Dr. Botash is a respected leader in the field of child abuse pediatrics. She established the Child Abuse Referral & Evaluation Program at Upstate and cofounded the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center. She was a long-time member of the New York state Children's Justice Task Force.

She has led efforts to share her knowledge and expertise on the issue with other physicians, developing the Child Abuse Medical Provider Program (CHAMP), aimed at improving the examination, treatment, documentation, community referral, and management of suspected child abuse cases.

Botash developed Upstate's Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship Program, which trains physicians to diagnose and treat child abuse and neglect. The fellowship is accredited by Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The fellowship typically follows a three-year residency in general pediatrics.

In addition to her work in child abuse, Botash has served in key leadership posts, including as interim chair of pediatrics and senior associate dean for faculty affairs and faculty development. In her post as senior associate dean, she has developed teaching workshops for faculty, supports the Building Excellent Skills for Teaching (BEST), and has developed a micro-credential leadership training program for mid-career faculty. She is past president of the Ray E. Helfer Society, the primary subspecialty society for physicians devoted to the problem of maltreated children.

Botash has been the recipient of numerous accolades, including the Upstate Gold Standard Award for faculty excellence and Upstate President's and SUNY Chancellor's Teaching Awards. In 2017, she was named a Distinguished Teaching Professor, one of the highest academic honors from SUNY.



Ann Botash, MD '85

Upstate Celebrates Medical Graduates

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AWARDED degrees to 171 graduates of the Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine on May 1: 146 doctor of medicine degrees, 22 master of public health degrees, and three certificates in public health. Two students received MD/MPH degrees.

In addition, two students were awarded MD/PhD degrees. Nick Huang will begin his residency at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in the internal medicine research track. Christine Ly will begin her residency in family and urban medicine at the University of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital. Both Huang and Ly entered Upstate in 2014.

Upstate Medical University presented honorary degrees to three individuals who have made substantial contributions in areas of importance to Upstate, including social justice, equity, clinician wellness, and evidence-based practice: Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD; Bernadette Melnyk, PhD; and Tait Shanafelt, MD.



Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD

Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD is University Professor of Medical Humanities at George Washington University, the first woman and first African American to hold this prestigious, endowed faculty position. She is also Professor of Health Policy in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences and Professor of American Studies in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

Throughout her career Gamble has worked to promote equity and justice in American medicine and public health. A physician, scholar, and activist, she is an internationally recognized expert on the history of race and American medicine, racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care, and bioethics. She is the author of several widely acclaimed publications on the history of race and racism in American medicine, including the award-winning *Making a Place for Ourselves: The Black Hospital Movement: 1920-1945*. Public service has been a hallmark of Gamble's career. She chaired the committee that took the lead role in the successful campaign to obtain an apology in 1997 from President Clinton for the infamous United States Public Health Syphilis Study at Tuskegee.



Bernadette Melnyk, PhD

Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, is vice president for health promotion and university chief wellness officer, the Helene Fuld Health Trust Professor of Evidence-based Practice (EBP), Dean of the College of Nursing The Ohio State University, and professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at Ohio State's College of Medicine. She is a globally recognized expert in EBP, intervention research, child, teen and young adult mental health, and health and wellness, and is a frequent keynote speaker at national and international conferences.

Dr. Melnyk has consulted with hundreds of healthcare systems and colleges on how to improve quality of care and patient outcomes through implementing and sustaining evidence-based practice. Her record includes over 33 million dollars of funding from federal agencies and foundations, and more than 460 publications.



Tait Shanafelt, MD

Tait Shanafelt, MD, is chief wellness officer at Stanford Medicine, and Associate Dean and Jeanie and Stewart Richie Professor of Medicine at Stanford University. He is a hematologist/oncologist whose clinical work focuses on the care of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. He served a seven-year term on the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Leukemia Steering Committee from 2014-2020 and has been principal investigator on four R01 grants from the NCI and on numerous clinical trials testing new treatments for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. He has published more than 450 peer-reviewed manuscripts and commentaries in addition to more than 100 abstracts and book chapters.

In addition to his leukemia research, Dr. Shanafelt is an international thought leader and researcher in the field of healthcare professional well-being and its implications for quality of patient care. His pioneering studies in this area nearly 20 years ago are credited with helping launch the entire field of organizational efforts to promote clinician well-being. His work has involved physicians, nurses, advanced practice providers and biomedical scientists at all stages of their career and has included numerous multi-center and national studies.





PREPARING FO

As the inaugural chief medical officer of FEMA, Andre Pennardt, MD '91, is establishing protocols to protect and support the health of those responsible for the nation's disaster preparedness and response.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States in early 2020, most job sectors came to a halt except for essential workers. That included the 22,000 employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In order to protect its workforce and maintain its readiness for disaster response, FEMA created the new position of chief medical officer to provide in-house medical guidance and expertise.

“Hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, and floods do not stop occurring just because a contagious virus is wreaking

havoc around the globe, says Andre (Andy) Pennardt, MD '91, who was tapped to serve in the inaugural role. An emergency medicine physician, Dr. Pennardt's unique career has included service in the military, training in wilderness medicine and disaster management, and hurricane and wildland fire response. “That combination fit the bill for what FEMA felt it needed,” he says.

As the chief medical officer, Dr. Pennardt is responsible for the health and well-being of FEMA employees across the nation. He also serves as chief of FEMA's Medical Branch, overseeing the work of contact tracers, epidemiologists, nurses, and licensed clinicians.

While his initial focus was on COVID-19, Pennardt began his new role by conducting a needs analysis to identify where attention was needed most. One area that emerged was mental health care. “The social isolation from the pandemic, coupled with the intensive disaster response cycle, created a very real need for a comprehensive mental health and wellness program to address burnout and other issues for our workforce,” he says.

Subsequently, FEMA has added full-time mental health professionals to its staff and began providing a wide variety of stress counseling sessions and workshops and started a peer support program. Other areas of focus include emergency medical services and disaster medical support, occupational medicine, health informatics and public health/epidemiology, which in each case required the creation of comprehensive medical programs from the ground up—developing policies, obtaining approval for new positions, finding funding outside the existing budget, and navigating complex statutes, rules, and regulations.

“An average day may consist of tasks such as operational briefings, staff meetings, analyzing epidemiological data to ensure proper safety procedures have been implemented, developing EMS protocols, or arranging an evacuation from a remote deployment site,” Pennardt says.



Dr. Pennardt on the back ramp of special operations MH-47 off the Korean peninsula, during his military service

R DISASTER



Dr. Pennardt speaks to a group of FEMA safety professionals from across the nation.

“I also regularly liaise with my counterparts at other components within the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies and serve as a member of various interagency medical working groups focused on topics such as medical preparedness, EMS system integration, and high-threat casualty care guidelines.”

But the disaster response nature of FEMA’s work extends to Pennardt’s as well. “A routine workday could suddenly be disrupted by an earthquake, major tornadoes, or terrorist attack,” he says. “One moment I may be focused on developing a program and the next moment I must refocus on ensuring FEMA responders deploying to a new disaster are properly supported,” he says.

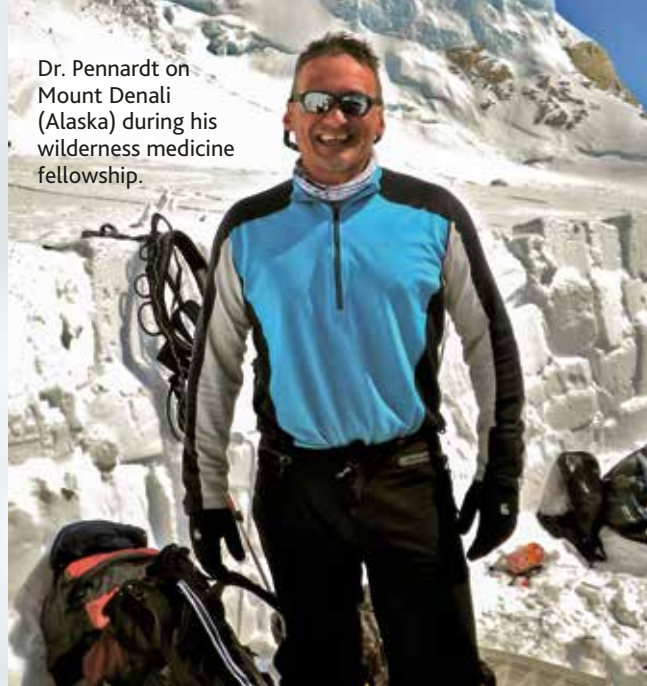
A LIFETIME OF PREPARATION

That’s a challenge he’s been preparing for most of his life. Pennardt’s interest in medicine began in high school when he started volunteering with a local ambulance service. During college at the University of Rochester, he became certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. Unsurprisingly, he gravitated toward emergency medicine during medical studies at Upstate Medical University.

As a fourth-year student, Pennardt completed both an acting internship and a research elective in emergency medicine, both times mentored by W. John Zehner, Jr., MD. His research project evaluated the ability of paramedics to apply clinical clearance algorithms for patients with potential cervical spine injuries, research that was

ultimately published in *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*. “It was very exciting to get a medical school project published in an academic journal,” he says.

Having attended Upstate on a U.S. Army Health Professions Scholarship, Pennardt began his military career after earning his medical degree, completing a categorical general surgery internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. In the Army, emergency medicine residency slots are typically assigned and completed after interns complete a two-year operational tour. Pennardt’s assignment was as a battalion surgeon to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He completed Army parachutist training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and flight surgeon (aviation medicine) training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, then deployed to the Middle East.



Dr. Pennardt on Mount Denali (Alaska) during his wilderness medicine fellowship.

“A routine workday could suddenly be disrupted by an earthquake, major tornadoes, or terrorist attack. One moment I may be focused on developing a program and the next moment I must refocus on ensuring FEMA responders deploying to a new disaster are properly supported.”

— ANDRE (ANDY) PENNARDT, MD '91

“Whether riding in a Zodiac assault raft with U.S. Green Berets in the Persian Gulf or jumping from airplanes with our Jordanian Special Forces partners, two years of adventure flew by quickly,” he says. At the end, he was fortunate to be selected for his top-choice residency program at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

Pennardt thrived under the high-pressure training and was selected to serve as chief resident for his final year. After residency, his program director pushed to keep him on as junior faculty. However, the chair of Emergency Medicine, who was a former Ranger with extensive special operations experience, insisted there was only one place Pennardt should be assigned—Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the home of the Airborne and Special Forces.

Although initially assigned as the EMS medical director for Fort Bragg, Pennardt was quickly drawn back into the world of special operations and was reassigned to support some of the Nation’s most elite fighting forces. “It was here that I learned much about the medical management of casualties from weapons of mass destruction,” says Pennardt, who became qualified as a Navy dive medical officer, was sent to Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) school, and participated in his first clandestine operations overseas.

It was also during this time that the defining event of his young military career occurred—the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. “As special operations forces, we knew we would lead America’s response and we were eager and willing,” says Pennardt.

That fall, he was deployed to Southeast Asia and soon called into duty. On December 5, 2001, a small team under Pennardt’s command responded after a 2,000 lb. Air Force bomb had erroneously struck friendly positions deep in Afghanistan, killing and wounding dozens of U.S. and allied troops. “We inserted by air into hostile territory during daylight, triaged and extracted the most seriously injured, and for the first time in history, performed in-flight surgery and resuscitation aboard a C-130 transport as it was rocked by enemy surface-to-air missiles and antiaircraft fire for much of the 5.5-hour evacuation flight,” he recounts. “Many lives were saved that day, and during the coming months we continued to operate in the mountains of Afghanistan, providing the sole medical support for some of America’s finest warriors as they pursued Osama bin Laden and his followers.”

One special operations assignment followed another as Pennardt sequentially became the senior medical officer for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne); the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne); the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Arabian Peninsula, the Army’s most elite counterterrorism unit; and the Special Operations Command—SOUTH overseeing all special operations forces missions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS

In early 2005, three of Pennardt’s best friends asked if he wanted to join them on a climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. A native of Munich, Germany, who had moved to the United States at age 10, Pennardt loved mountains and enthusiastically agreed. Not long after, in a bit of serendipity, the Army reassigned him to Colorado, which provided the oppor-

tunity to train on Pike's Peak and other parts of the Rocky Mountains. "All of us successfully summited after a four-day climb but two of my friends developed acute mountain sickness in the process," he says.

Pennardt had learned some of the challenges of practicing emergency medicine at high altitude while conducting rescue missions in the Hindu Kush Mountains of Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. After the Kilimanjaro experience, he became intrigued with high altitude physiology and mountain medicine. He enrolled in mountaineering and glacier rescue courses and was almost killed by an avalanche himself in 2009. "I put what I learned into practice as I spent my military leave adding the highest peaks in Europe, South America, and North America to my climbing resume," he says. "One of my dreams remains to one day get to the Himalayas and at least support a Mount Everest expedition."

In 2010, one of those friends from the Kilimanjaro climb—also an emergency medicine doc—started the Army's first (and only) austere and wilderness medicine fellowship at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. Pennardt became his first fellow. "My main task was to develop and implement the first approved Diploma in International Mountain Medicine (DIMM) program in the United States," he says.

A decade later, that program continues to train dozens of Army physicians and medics each year to assume expeditionary support roles in some of the highest and most remote parts of the world. Pennardt continues to be active in wilderness medicine, currently involved with efforts to create a Wilderness Paramedic certification.

The following year, while still on active duty with the U.S. Army, Pennardt became involved with an inter-agency initiative to teach the lifesaving skills learned at high cost on the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq to law enforcement officers at the federal, state, and local levels. "We recognized that law enforcement officers had the unique role of rushing into an unsecured area to the sound of gunfire to stop an active shooter or a terrorist from taking innocent lives," he says. "They could not rely on conventional firefighters and EMS medics to play that role in a high-threat environment, but instead needed the same lifesaving skills as our military's special operations and combat medics."

Pennardt retired from the Army in 2014 as a Colonel after 23 years of active duty. During his military career, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, and four Air Medals for his combat service. He was recognized for his contributions to military medicine with the Order of Military Medical Merit, Aeromedical Order of Merit, Distinguished Member of the Army Medical Department Regiment, and the Surgeon General "A" Proficiency Designator in Emergency Medicine.

Intrigued by his experiences working with law enforcement officers—and to gain a better understanding of their challenges—Pennardt completed the Florida basic

law enforcement academy, followed by agency field training and SWAT training. Ultimately, he became a sworn deputy and the medical director of the Lake County Sheriff's Office in Tavares, Florida. "While I was able to respond to all types of emergency calls, my primary focus was to work in the emergency management bureau to better prepare my community for all hazards, as well as oversee the first responder training for our deputies," he says. "It is deeply satisfying when one of our deputies saves the life of the victim from an accident, overdose, or cardiac arrest."

Concurrently, Pennardt spent nearly five years as regional medical director for the U.S. Forest Service, a part-time position providing medical oversight, training, protocol development, quality assurance, online medical control, and critical incident field medical support for all U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management fire, EMS, and aerial rescue personnel in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Arizona, and Oregon. He also served as medical director of the Board for Critical Care Transport Paramedic Certification, executive director of the National Tactical EMS Initiative and Council, and held academic appointments in emergency medicine at the Medical College of Georgia, the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University, and the emergency medicine residency program at Aventura Hospital, in Aventura, Florida.

Then came COVID-19 and the call from FEMA.

DISASTER READY

The role of FEMA is to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the hazards of all manner of natural and man-made disasters across the nation. For Pennardt, that entails translating that mission into a comprehensive medical support program. He is committed to ensuring the continued health and well-being of those called into action when disasters strike.

"Being a part of the national system that helps people before, during, and after disasters is an incredible honor," he says. "Taking a fresh look at how to not only make our communities better prepared, but also ensuring that our responders are properly protected in the process of helping those communities in the aftermath of a disaster, is an opportunity that few physicians have."

He invites his peers to get involved. "There is a great need for physicians to assist in preparing their own communities against a wide variety of natural and man-made threats," he says. "Please consider working with the emergency managers, first response agencies, hospitals, and schools where you live and work to aid in this task." ■

The Frontline of Women's Healthcare

From preventive and maternity care to screening for cancer, OB/GYN physicians are at the frontline of women's healthcare. While the specialty is most closely associated with reproduction, the field has many areas of subspecialty beyond delivering babies. Five alumni practitioners share how they champion women's health.

BY RENÉE GEARHART LEVY



COURTESY, CEDARS-SINAI

MARGARETA PISARSKA, MD '92

REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY

From Couple to Family

Infertility affects approximately 6.1 million people in the United States, equivalent to 10 percent of the reproductive-age population.

At Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Margareta Pisarska, MD '92, helps patients struggling to conceive get pregnant and works to help preserve the ability to have children in the future for those undergoing treatment—such as chemotherapy—that might impact fertility, or those not yet ready to start a family.

“I went into reproductive medicine to help people build their families, which most of the time is a joyful experience. However, sometimes it is quite devastating when people can't become pregnant,” says Dr. Pisarska, director of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Cedars-Sinai, professor of OB/GYN, and director of the reproductive endocrinology and infertility fellowship.

But she's not just a clinician. For nearly 20 years, Pisarska has led NIH-funded research investigating causes of infertility and how genetics and epigenetics of couples with infertility impact pregnancy outcomes. Currently, the Pisarska Lab has two areas of focus. The first is ovarian physiology, particularly polycystic ovary syndrome, a disease that impacts about 7–10 percent of women. “They have irregular menstrual cycles, don't always ovulate, can have difficulty getting pregnant, and have other metabolic conditions that are impacted by it,” she explains.

The second area of research focuses specifically on development of the placenta. “I'm looking at the underlying genetics of infertility and how fertility treatments might impact pregnancy outcomes, including maternal and fetal development,” she says. Comparing the placentas of women who undergo in vitro fertilization with those that conceive spontaneously, Pisarska's goal is to

identify specific genes that are the result of the underlying reproductive health issues.

“We want to tailor it down to the genes' specific purposes and impact on fertility as well as overall disease risk,” Pisarska says. “One gene might be affecting implantation of the fetus and subsequent placenta accreta spectrum disorder, where the placenta implants abnormally; another gene may impact placental hormone production as well as cholesterol levels in the mother.”

“And when I have a patient who gets pregnant and graduates from my care after we see a heartbeat on their ultrasound, that's the culmination of what my field is about and why I chose this profession. It's all about family.”

She also studies how fetal sex impacts pregnancy outcomes, looking at these factors and the effect on maternal health and fetal development and the long-term impact, something known as the developmental origins of health and disease. “We developed the sex-specific placenta atlas, looking at different genetic markers in the first trimester that are seen in normal pregnancy but different based on fetal sex,” she explains. “Now that we have the normative sex-specific placenta atlas, we can start identifying biomarkers of healthy pregnancies as well as those found in diseases of the placenta. We can look at fetal cells and genetic material that is in the maternal circulation in order to be able to identify disease states in obstetrics.”

As a medical student at Upstate Medical University, Pisarska knew she wanted to pursue a surgical specialty and was drawn to OB/GYN because the field seemed to be leading the progression of

minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery. “It also seemed like it would be one of the more happy, optimistic specialties,” she says.

Pisarska did residency training at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, and, inspired by laboratory developments in infertility, followed that with a fellowship in reproductive, endocrine, and infertility at Baylor College of Medicine. While there, researchers at Baylor discovered how to manipulate a gene in a mouse model and produce a phenotype—infertility—and then study the impact and significance of that.

Although she'd planned to return to New York City to launch a clinical infertility practice, she turned her attention to research, heading to Stanford University through a Women's Reproductive Health Research Career Award.

Pisarska spent five years working with eminent ovarian physiologist Aaron Hsueh, PhD, who was conducting groundbreaking work to understand how the ovary functions, how eggs develop, and why some eggs are lost prematurely. “The training I received was essentially like being in a PhD program,” she says.

Subsequently, Pisarska was recruited to Cedars-Sinai in 2004. She says the combination of her clinical practice and research lab provide overlapping returns. “Each little discovery is so rewarding, particularly when it can lead to changes in clinical care or management,” says Pisarska, the mother of three children, ages 14–23. “And when I have a patient who gets pregnant and graduates from my care after we see a heartbeat on their ultrasound, that's the culmination of what my field is about and why I chose this profession. It's all about family.”

Helping Mothers Feed Their Babies

Although three out of four mothers in the United States start out breastfeeding their newborn babies, less than half are still doing so six months later, with only 13 percent breastfeeding exclusively.

“From a public health perspective, there isn’t really anything that accomplishes what breast milk can accomplish for promoting infant health. And there’s nothing that comes even close in terms of cost effectiveness,” says Susan Rothenberg, MD '92, assistant professor of OB/GYN at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and a recognized breastfeeding expert. “Breast milk is like medicine for babies, especially preemies; chock full of antibodies.”

Dr. Rothenberg believes a big obstacle to successful breastfeeding stems from the lack of education in lactation among medical providers, specifically obstetricians and pediatricians. “Traditionally, patients receive breastfeeding instruction from a lactation consultant or nurse at the hospital after childbirth before their milk has even come in. When they go home and encounter difficulty or complications, they often just give up because it’s harder to access support,” she says.

Breastfeeding isn’t something most doctors learn about in medical school, or even OB/GYN residency. “It’s generally not taught,” Rothenberg says. “I learned a lot about pathology of the breast, including breast cancer. I learned some anatomy of the breast. But I learned almost nothing about the function of the breasts, how milk is produced, or the physiology of how to support milk production.”

She is working with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control to standardize breastfeeding education and make it available to learners in medical school and residency. “Right now, if you don’t have a breastfeeding champion in your med school or in your residency department, chances are you’re still not going to learn a whole lot about breast-



“From a public health perspective, there isn’t really anything that accomplishes what breast milk can accomplish for promoting infant health. And there’s nothing that comes even close in terms of cost effectiveness.”

feeding,” says Rothenberg. “We’re updating the AAP curriculum to make it comprehensive and available to anyone who wants to access it. The next step is encouraging all medical schools and training programs to mandate the education for their students.”

Rothenberg is an accidental breastfeeding champion herself. As acting director of obstetrics for Beth Israel Medical Center in the early 2000s, she was asked by her chair to look into improving the hospital’s breastfeeding rates, which were lagging peer hospitals. Rothenberg put together a multidisciplinary breastfeeding task force to work toward improving those rates and becoming a baby friendly hospital. Subsequently, she took a course from the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine,

“What Every Physician Needs to Know About Breastfeeding,” and eventually became a certified lactation consultant. “Over time, I gained the expertise and credentials required to achieve fellowship in the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine,” says Rothenberg, a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) who also serves on the ACOG Breastfeeding Expert Workgroup.

Then she had her own child, and despite her expertise, experienced many breastfeeding complications, including having a tongue-tied baby who required a frenotomy to latch. “I was lucky in that I was able to go to the ENT directly from the hospital, but many people have to wait a week or two to see someone and then it’s often too late,” she says.

As a result, Rothenberg became trained in performing newborn lingual frenotomy—clipping a baby’s tongue-tie to improve range of motion—which she now does both in the hospital and office. “You don’t usually find obstetricians or pediatricians who do that, but it’s literally the most satisfying two-second procedure that you’ll ever do,” she says. “You watch people’s faces the first time that the baby latches, and all of a sudden, they don’t have pain.”

As a medical student at Upstate, Rothenberg says she was probably the last in her class to settle on a specialty. “I was drawn to OB/GYN and to being an advocate for women but was concerned about the long hours and sleepless nights,” she says. “Finally, the dean sat me down and said, ‘Look, you’ve got to do what you love to do, and you figure out a way to work out the lifestyle.’ And he was mostly right.”

Thirty years later, she is still delivering babies. “I was right to be concerned about staying up all night and working all weekend. Especially as I get older, I feel it more,” she says. “But it’s also been incredibly rewarding.”

KECIA GAITHER, MD '90

MATERNAL FETAL SPECIALIST

Fighting Healthcare Disparities

In the United States, the maternal mortality rate is 3.5 higher for black women than white women, largely because of disparities in maternal care.

“There exists a pandemic of perinatal morbidity and mortality among pregnant black women,” says Kecia Gaither, MD '90, director of perinatal services at NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln in the Bronx. “There needs to be an obviation of biases, institutional and individual racism, and a recognition that not listening to your patients kills. It’s a national crisis that can be reckoned with by a recognition and attention to patterns of behavior.”

The Bronx has the highest perinatal morbidity and mortality in New York, a statistic Gaither sees daily in her work caring for primarily underserved, low-income, immigrant patients from African diaspora and Latinx countries. Her mission is to offer exemplary prenatal care to all women, regardless of circumstance.

Gaither’s patients are considered high-risk in their pregnancies because of other health complications, such as diabetes, hypertension, HIV/AIDS, obesity, or carrying multiples. “I’m trained to take care of medical conditions in pregnancy that general obstetricians are not,” says Gaither, who is double board-certified in OB/GYN and maternal fetal medicine. “I do not see the same thing every day. My work entails genetics issues, medical surgical issues, fetal structural issues and anomalies, and research. There are a lot of nuances and I’m constantly stimulated. I love what I do.”

Gaither, who also has an academic appointment as associate professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology with Weill Cornell Medicine, does not routinely deliver babies. “If I have a case that’s weird or unusual, I will scrub in,” she says. “Otherwise, my focus is keeping the mother and fetus healthy up to delivery.”

Gaither became interested in the OB/GYN subspecialty as a medical student at Upstate, where she first thought she would be a pediatrician. “When I did my



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pediatrics rotation, they put me on the oncology service, which was terribly depressing,” she recalls. “My next rotation was OB/GYN, where I rotated with the maternal-fetal fellow, Shiraz Sunderji, MD. I absolutely loved it and knew then and there that’s what I wanted to do.”

Gaither completed her OB/GYN residency at Riverside Regional Medical Center, a subsidiary of Medical College of Virginia, followed by a maternal fetal medicine fellowship at Rutgers University.

During the course of her career, Gaither has developed a strong focus on public health. “I see a lot of cardiac disease in my patients, so we’ve instituted a program to identify risk factors early

on,” she says. “This is something I would like to develop nationally, beyond just a hospital-based program.”

In 2006, Gaither earned an MPH in Health Policy and Management from Columbia University, and in May 2022, completed a dual MS/MBA from Cornell University in healthcare policy and research/healthcare leadership. “I’m very interested in advocacy. I pursued the MBA specifically because I wanted to be more financially savvy as to healthcare, particularly navigating in a demographic that is underserved and challenged financially, to be able to provide the best care and the best financial methodology possible,” she says.

Increasingly, Gaither is working to impact healthcare from a population perspective, efforts that range from speaking with the media and elected officials on women’s health issues to serving as liaison to the Association of Black Cardiologists to promote critical perinatal initiatives and access to prenatal care. In 2011, she served as an appointee of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to the HIV Planning Council of New York. And she was recently elected as a board member of the United Nations Association, where she hopes to focus on women’s health globally.

“The disparities in U.S. healthcare show up in the patients I see every day,” she says. “There is a lot of work to be done.”

AMBER TRUEHART, MD '09

COMPLEX FAMILY PLANNING | PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT GYNECOLOGY

Providing Access to Care

In August 2021, Amber Truehart, MD '09, moved from Chicago to take a new position at the University of New Mexico Medical School that would allow her to split her time between her specialty areas in complex family planning and pediatric and adolescent gynecology (PAG).

But the following month, Texas banned abortion in almost all cases and Oklahoma and Louisiana soon followed.

New Mexico has one of the least restrictive abortion laws in the country, making it legal at all stages of pregnancy. "New Mexico is a state that very much believes in individuals making their own decisions and not making laws about things," says Dr. Truehart. As a result, "New Mexico has found itself on the forefront of abortion care."

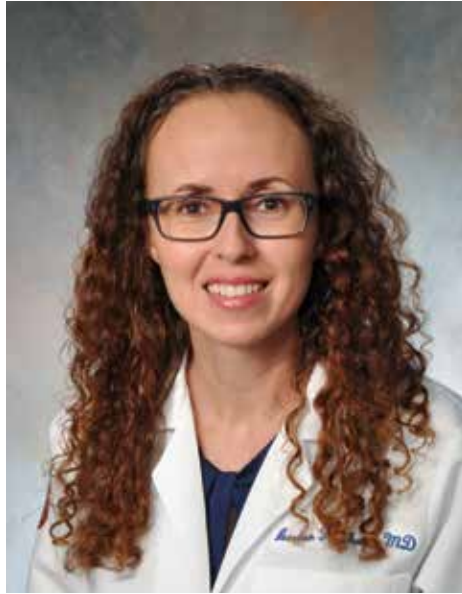
And as director of the Center for Reproductive Health at the University of New Mexico Health Center, Truehart is spending the majority of her time on abortion care, with three quarters of patients coming from out of state. "The number of women traveling for care is only going to increase with the recent Supreme Court decision," she says.

Although her husband feels otherwise, Truehart worries little about her personal safety as an abortion provider. "I just have to do the work that I feel like I was meant to do," she says.

For as long as Truehart planned to become a physician, she says she has also known she would perform abortions.

That seed was planted when a close relative needed an abortion at age 15 and grew during her undergraduate studies in sociology and gender studies at Union College, where she began volunteering at the local Planned Parenthood office, a practice that lasted through medical school. "Abortion is just medical care," she says.

Truehart came to Upstate Medical University with plans to become a neuro-



"New Mexico is a state that very much believes in individuals making their own decisions and not making laws about things. [As a result] New Mexico has found itself on the forefront of abortion care."

surgeon (one who also performed abortions) but changed paths at the beginning of fourth year with her final rotation—OB/GYN. "It was immediately clear that women's health was what I was meant to do," she recalls.

Truehart completed residency training at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, followed by a fellowship in family planning at the University of Chicago. During her fellowship, she quickly realized that her favorite patients were adolescents, and she sought further specialized training in pediatric and adolescent gynecology.

The sub-specialty focuses on patients from birth to age 21 and deals with condi-

tions such as congenital gynecologic anomalies, ovarian masses, painful menstrual cycles, birth control, and first pelvic exams, as well as kids with cancer, sickle cell disease, and lupus. "I most enjoy how my two specialties overlap in the care of medically complex teens and use of hormones to regulate their menstrual cycles and/or prevent pregnancies. I also perform surgeries for things like ovarian masses or torsion, hymenal abnormalities, and vaginal foreign bodies," she says.

Truehart spent six years as an attending at University of Chicago, primarily practicing pediatric gynecology. In 2021, she moved to her current position as assistant professor of OB/GYN at the University of New Mexico Medical School, where she serves as assistant director of the OB/GYN residency program, assistant director of the complex family planning fellowship program, and director of the Center for Reproductive Health at the University of New Mexico Medical Center. She is the only pediatric gynecologist in the state.

Both of Truehart's areas of OB/GYN specialty are relatively new within the field. "This is the very first year that family planning is an ACGME accredited fellowship with board exams and everything," she says. "Peds gynecology is even smaller and newer."

That's a big part of why Truehart chooses to work in an academic setting. "I want to make sure that the things I do get passed down, regardless of whether people are doing fellowships in these areas," she says. "All OB/GYN's on some level should be able to treat adolescents. And there's no reason a general OB/GYN can't take care of an early abortion," she says. "You should only need someone like me if you have some sort of underlying condition or complication."

MONICA PRASAD HAYES, MD '97

GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGIST

Curing Cancer

While the field of obstetrics centers on childbirth, an equally life-changing event in gynecology is a cancer diagnosis. “To find out you have cancer just rocks people’s world,” says Monica Prasad Hayes, MD '97.

As a gynecologic oncologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Hayes uses surgery, chemotherapy, and newer targeted therapies to treat and potentially cure her patients from gynecologic cancers and to help those who can't be cured live well with a terminal illness through the steps of dying. “In today’s medicine, there are so many different options with the same diagnosis. Everyone is an individual we want to give everyone the best chance for them,” she says.

In addition to pre-cancer and invasive cancer patients, she also sees patients with complex benign surgical cases, such as complex endometriosis and large fibroid disease.

Hayes says her field is unusual because, unlike other surgical subspecialties where a medical oncologist administers chemotherapy, GYN oncologists are trained to do both surgery and chemotherapy. “It results in a very intense relationship with the patient,” she says.

As a medical student at Upstate, Hayes knew two things: she was interested in surgery, and she wanted to focus on women’s health. “That was really what propelled me towards OB/GYN, and then surgically to GYN oncology,” she says. “I really wanted to be a surgeon for women.”

She wasn't scared off by cancer. Her father, Satish Prasad, PhD, was a physicist who conducted research on radiation oncology treatments as a faculty member at Upstate Medical University, so she grew up hearing about cancer treatments.

“It’s kind of a calling,” she says. “I really enjoy taking care of women who are sick and making them better.”

Hayes completed her OB/GYN residency at New York Presbyterian



“We’ve come out with a lot of targeted therapies that are not just traditional chemotherapies, and it’s really moved the needle in terms of overall survival and progression-free survival in our patients. Despite the COVID pandemic, we were still able to accrue patients in our trials and make progress.”

Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and then did a two-year research fellowship in the Department of Surgery at Sloan Kettering Medical Center focusing on the molecular genetics of endometrial cancer. She then completed a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Throughout her career, Hayes has been heavily involved in clinical research. She spent 15 years as the institutional principal investigator for Mount Sinai’s medical oncology group, one of the

National Cancer Institute’s funded cooperative research groups. Although she stepped down from that role last year, she remains active working with both large cooperative and industry clinical trials. She has numerous publications and speaks widely on her research.

“It’s important work,” she says. “We’ve come out with a lot of targeted therapies that are not just traditional chemotherapies, and it’s really moved the needle in terms of overall survival and progression-free survival in our patients,” she says. “Despite the COVID pandemic, we were still able to accrue patients in our trials and make progress.”

A major focus area is the genetics of cancers. “We were part of the PARP inhibitor trials, which looked at BRCA positive patients and BRCA negative patients in ovarian cancer, and showed progression-free benefits, with the addition of PARP inhibitors after chemotherapy and surgery for our patients,” she says. “We’re using targeted therapies now for patients who have genetic mutations, both somatic and germline mutations, and it’s really moved the field forward.”

Hayes also serves as fellowship director for the GYN oncology fellowship at Mount Sinai, another of her main hats. “I teach in the OR and in the clinic,” she says. “So, I see patients two days a week, I operate two to three days a week, and then I do administrative work for the clinical trials and for the fellowship role the fifth and sixth days.”

Despite the busy schedule, Hayes considers herself a role model for having a strong academic career as well as a life outside of medicine. “You can do it all, but it takes a lot of time management,” says the mother of teenage children and a new puppy. “I have no regrets. This is an amazing field.”

Walking With Purpose

NNEKA ONWUMERE '24 CREATED A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT SHE HOPES WILL KEEP GIVING.

On Mother's Day, a group of walkers traversed through downtown Syracuse to raise money for brain cancer research. Participants in the inaugural Upstate Brain Cancer Research Walk, which began on the Syracuse University campus and ended at the Upstate Cancer Center, were mostly family members of those impacted by brain cancer, among the deadliest of cancers, particularly for children.

For organizer Nneka Onwumere '24, the effort was personal. An aspiring neurosurgeon, she is interested in all matters of research related to the brain, a fascination sparked as an adolescent when she would shadow her mother at work in her role as a medical assistant in the neurology department at the VA Medical Center in the Bronx.

During junior high and high school, Onwumere volunteered there and enjoyed chatting with the patients in her spare time. "My mother had me when she was in her 40s. My cousins were 20 years older than me and my brother 16 years older. I grew up spending time with older people and was comfortable talking with them," she says.

It was a quality that didn't go unnoticed. "You're easy to talk to," an older patient once told her. "You should think about becoming a doctor."

Onwumere lost her mother, Elsweta Gordon, last fall, after a series of ischemic strokes. Organizing the walk was a way to honor the inspiration her mom had provided while keeping herself busy on her first Mother's Day without her. It was also a way to give back to Upstate and the local community. "I always want to make a mark wherever I am," she says. "If I set my mind on something I want to do, I find a way to make it happen."

That includes attending medical school.



Medical student Nneka Onwumere launched Upstate's inaugural Brain Cancer Research Walk.

“My dream is that even after I graduate, this will be an annual walk that will continue to raise money for brain cancer research that will lead to effective treatments. I just hope that I can make Upstate proud for believing in me.”

—Nneka Onwumere '24

Onwumere attended Manhattanville College and majored in chemistry. "The process was difficult," she recalls. "I started to doubt that medical school was a possibility for me." Nonetheless, she applied after graduation but was unsuccessful. Eventually, she began working at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as a personal office assistant for David Ilson, MD, PhD, a medical oncologist specializing in gastrointestinal cancers. Over time, she'd also earned a master's in chemistry from the City University of New York. After three years, Dr. Ilson made her a research assistant on a clinical trial for patients with Stage IV GI tumors. "The trial was essentially a last resort treatment," says Onwumere. "My role was to explain the clinical trial to them and get their consent to participate."

With Dr. Ilson’s encouragement, Onwumere began studying and took the MCAT again. It was a stressful period, working full time in the clinic at Sloan Kettering and helping care for her mother, who was in failing health. “I wasn’t even sure I could get my application completed or if I should just give up on my dream,” she recalls. “I think I submitted it at 11 p.m. on the last night it was due.”

At the suggestion of the Office of Admissions, Onwumere applied to Upstate’s Medical Scholars Master’s program, which provides students extra enrichment and a pathway to medical school. She earned her master’s in medical technology and started medical school in 2020.

She hasn’t looked back. Although she’s enjoyed learning about all of the different body systems, nothing has eclipsed her interest in the brain. Onwumere served as president of Upstate’s chapter of Colleges Against Cancer, is currently co-president of the Upstate chapter of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), and has shadowed neurosurgeons Grahame Gould, MD, a cerebral vascular surgeon, and Lawrence Chin, MD, a neuro-oncologist and dean of the College of Medicine. “I really enjoy being in the OR. I’ve watched a brain tumor be removed by the residents as well as a surgery on a young adult with a vestibular schwannoma pressing on cranial nerve number eight that impacted his walking,” she says. “It’s a powerful experience.”



A family participating in the walk



Onwumere with members of Debbie Gregg’s family

It was participating in both Upstate’s Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk and the CNY Walk to End Alzheimer’s Disease that got Onwumere looking into whether there was a similar effort to support brain cancer research that her club could participate in. The closest thing she found was held in New York City’s Central Park, so she thought, “why not do it ourselves,” she recalls.

“I had no idea how much work goes into organizing a walk, even a small one.”

In March, Onwumere was successful at recruiting Upstate clubs Colleges Against Cancer, Wishmakers on Campus, and Medicine in Motion to collaborate with AANS and began working with the Upstate Foundation to learn how to handle money raised from the event. While doing research, she stumbled upon Debbie’s Brain Cancer Research Fund, which was established by Debbie Gregg, a local woman who had been

diagnosed with, and eventually died from, a rare aggressive brain tumor, to support brain cancer research at Upstate. Terry Shenfeld at the Upstate Foundation reached out to Debbie’s family, and it was determined that proceeds from the walk would be directed to that fund.

Onwumere handled most of the logistics of organizing the walk—while juggling classes and studying for Step 1—including working with Syracuse Police and the Department of Parks and Recreation to get the route approved, designing T-shirts, and marketing the event, which raised more than \$3,000. She hopes its just the start.

“My dream is that even after I graduate, this will be an annual walk that will continue to raise money for brain cancer research that will lead to effective treatments,” she says. “I just hope that I can make Upstate proud for believing in me.”

CLASS NOTES

1945

Brinton T. Darlington, of Seattle, WA, says he is "Getting used to being an old man. Enjoying catnaps and jigsaw puzzles."

1949

Stuart K. Cohan, of Houston, TX, writes "I don't know if or how many of my classmates are still with us, but if there are a few, good for us!"



Stuart K. Cohan '49 on his 95th birthday

grandchildren that we are very proud of," he writes. "It saddens me to share that our classmate and my close friend, **Donald Robins**, passed away in October 2021 in Scottsdale, AZ, where he and his wife Beverly lived for 28 years. When I'd visit, we'd often get together with **Bert Kwasman** (who is also sadly gone) for a meal and chat about our JOYFUL memories in Dr. Armstrong's Anatomy Lab. Don was a devoted physician, caring for his patients and family, and a most loyal and authentic friend. Wishing the best to all our classmates and loved ones."

1957 ReUnion

September 16-17, 2022

1958

George B. Jacobs, of Cape Coral, FL, continues to be actively involved in spine specialty societies and on the editorial board of *Surgical Neurology International—Spine Section*. He was recently elected to the board of directors of the Cape Harbour Yachting Commu-

nity and continues to be a member of the architectural review board of the community. His community has been compared to Venice because most houses are on natural canals leading directly to deep water. He and Rosanne started with four sons and now have 13 grandchildren and, of course, Thor, an aging, but still active, certified service and therapy German Shepherd dog.

1960

Leonard Levy, of DeWitt, NY, shares that his youngest granddaughter, Hayley Mariah Levy, married Jacob Kupin of Nashville, TN.

Roger D. Moore, of Clinton, NY, writes, "I just turned 92, obscene, but I have sisters who are 98 and 100, and a brother 95. They are all well and living independently. It must be a reflection of the good early farm life in Pompey Hollow where we were all born. I still live in the big old house in Clinton, where I practiced for nearly a half century. My dear wife Joanna passed nearly two years ago, the most dreadful event of my

life. We were married 65 years. I paint one masterpiece after another (my opinion), have a huge garden, sing in our church choir every Sunday, am active in more organizations than is prudent, see patients if they knock on the door or intercept my hoeing. Our six kids and eight grandkids call and visit frequently and with consistent cheer. The children and grandchildren are all bright and good-looking, like Joanna! When I pass, and I'm trying to put that event off as long as possible, my body will go to the medical school for freshman dissection. At least four students will have a skinny specimen."

1961

Alan J. Pollack, of Woodland Hills, CA, writes "I recently celebrated my 45th birthday (It's only my ears and bladder that are 85, LOL). The pandemic has prevented me from my activity as an Audubon-at-home chair and wildlife habitat steward, so I've been filling my time by building doll houses, which I donate to hospitals, clinics,

1952 ReUnion

September 16-17, 2022

1956

Milton Ingerman, of New York, NY, has been retired from his New York City ology practice for the past seven years and is enjoying the beauty of Central Park and concerts and ballet at Lincoln Center with his wife, Bobby Cramer. "I remarried after Arlene died in 1994, and together we have 11



George B. Jacobs '58's dog, Thor



Allan J. Pollack '61's 96th dollhouse

shelters, and schools where there are needy, abused, sick, homeless, and special needs kids. Ninety-six so far!"

1962 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

Steven N. Berney, of Lafayette Hill, PA, and Hollis have sold their condo and moved into an independent living facility. They still spend winters in Delray Beach, FL. "I continue to work part-time in Temple University's rheumatology section," he writes.

Kirtland E. Hobler, of Milford, OH, and Joanna have a grandson headed to Upstate College of Medicine. "We are already reliving fond Syracuse experiences through his excitement," he writes.



Kirtland E. Hobler '62, with his wife, Joanna, and grandson

1963

Philip M. Gaynes, and Suzy spent another winter season in Longboat Key, FL, enjoying the company of **Arnie** and **Harriet Derman**. They are all still avid tennis players (with new knees!), birders and hikers. "We feel blessed to be able to find joy in our lives everyday despite our being officially old geezers!"

David I. Rosen '63, of High Bridge, NJ, writes "Still functioning as 'Doctor Old School,' homecare and loving it. If possible, to be continued."

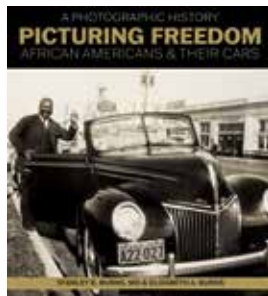
Malcolm E. Levine, of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, writes "Margie and I are pleased to announce the weddings of our two oldest granddaughters this year, June 30 and October 8."

Carl Salzman, of Cambridge, MA, is working and clinically active with lots of teaching and writing. He received the Harvard Award for Outstanding Mentorship during his career and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Massachusetts Psychiatric Association.

1964

Stanley B. Burns, of New York, NY, announces the publication of his 50th book, *Picturing Freedom: African Americans & Their Cars*. A meaningful celebration of African American life, it chronicles the photographic history of the pride and joy of car ownership and utilizes, for the first time, images from Dr. Burns' extensive African American photograph collection. The 272-page book includes more than 450 photographs, histories of photography, car freedoms, and travel, prefaces by the authors, and a comprehensive history of The Burns African American Collection.

Picturing Freedom won a 2022 Silver IPPY Award from the Independent Book Publishers Association. It is available at www.burnsarhive.com/picturing-freedom.



1965

Gary J. Havens, of Santa Monica, CA, writes "I'm still upright and taking solid food. Granddaughter Serena has finished her first-year of law school at University of North Carolina. Granddaughter Samantha just finished high school and is headed to college in September. The other grandkids are about to enter kindergarten. We just got back from a trip to Portugal, Spain, and Andorra and had a great time. Our primary activities are traveling, gardening, walking for exercise, and trying to keep up with the youngest grandkids."

Lawrence F. Simon, of Pomona, NY, writes "One more year makes 50 doing surgery at Montefiore Nyack Hospital."

1966



Nathan Billig, of Chevy Chase, MD, announces the publication of his book, *Untangling Lives: A Psychiatrist Remembers*. This memoir focuses on the importance of the therapist (psychiatrist) separating his own life narratives and history from those of patients, especially in relation to the experience of loss. It is available from Bookbaby, Amazon and local bookstores.

Louis A. Rosati, of Mesa, AZ, has written two non-fiction books. *The Boy in Abruzzo*, his first novel, was published this year.



CLASS NOTES

1967 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

Ira D. Levine, of San Diego, CA, writes "Sadly, my wife, Ellen, died of Alzheimer's disease in June 2020."

Daniel C. Niejadlik, of Essex, CT, is in touch with many of classmates and they are looking forward to the 55th reunion. He is now the oldest and longest clinical affiliate at Florida Atlantic University Medical School. "Time passes too quickly! Six great-grandchildren," he writes.

1968

Robert L. Bard, of New York, NY, received the Ellis Island National Medal of Honor on May 17. On May 21, he gave the closing speech at the FDNY Academy about occupational cancers in the fire service while commemorating the 1975 NY Tel Exchange Fire. The first Bard Award for advocacy and leadership was presented to the top surviving representative of one of New York City's deadliest fires. Bard was honored with an award at the Are You Dense? annual gala for his research work on cancer-related dense breast issues. He was featured on the cover of the first issue of *Medical Visionaries* related to a story about carcinogens from environmental toxins.



1971

Jay B. Brodsky, of Palo Alto, CA, retired after 44 plus years as a professor and administrator at Stanford Medical School. "I spent some COVID time writing medical satire and published a book series entitled *Publish, Don't Perish!* available on Amazon. The book gives illustrations of medical nonsense that can be submitted to on-line predatory journals in order to pad your CV," he writes. "Classmates **R. Bernstein** and **J. Gullo** rated the books five stars! Anyone in the Stanford/Palo Alto area give me a call—I specialize in campus tours."

1972 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

Ronald S. Bogdasarian, of Ann Arbor, MI, writes "I never thought I'd retire from ENT and I still miss practicing, but life circumstances intervened. I've adapted well and think of myself resuming the liberal arts education that was partially interrupted by my

career. I find life good as long as I'm learning and doing other health-sustaining activities. I've also realized that somehow the medical profession survives without me. I know I learned much from many of you classmates during those four years in Syracuse. I look forward to learning about your lives now at our 50th."

Philip R. Caropreso, of Keokuk, IA, is a past chair of the American College of Surgeons Committee on trauma for Iowa. He recently participated at the Capitol in Iowa with Governor Kim Reynolds, who signed a state proclamation celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the committee.



Philip R. Caropreso '72 and Governor Kim Reynolds



Ronald S. Bogdasarian '72 and his wife, Mary



Dr. Cantor, pictured in the Upstate Pediatric Emergency Department, was honored in July for career achievements in the field of emergency medicine. He has been retired from Upstate since 2019 but remains active regionally and nationally promoting the field of pediatric emergency medicine.

RICHARD CANTOR, MD '76, HS '79

A Lifetime of Achievement



For many physicians, retirement is a time to set medicine on the shelf to focus on leisure pursuits. For Richard Cantor, MD '76, HS '79, retirement from clinical medicine provides more time for the advancement of pediatric emergency medicine on a state and national scale.

Dr. Cantor, who served as a professor in emergency medicine and pediatrics and directed Upstate's Department of Pediatric Emergency Medicine from 1984 until 2019, is completing a textbook with Oxford Press, *Teaching Cases in Pediatric Emergency Medicine*, and with funding from a Children's

Network Grant, is filming a series of 10-minute teaching case videos that will be distributed to medical school and residency programs nationwide. "I'm still giving about a dozen Grand Rounds lectures a year and speaking at six or eight annual meetings," he says.

In July, Cantor was honored with the Edward W. Gilmore Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York American College of Emergency Medicine Physicians. The career award recognizes pioneering spirit and career dedication to the field of emergency medicine and is given for significant contributions to the specialty through education, leadership, mentoring, and the advancement of quality emergency medicine care.

It's a fitting honor given his role in helping establish the field of pediatric emergency medicine, both at Upstate and nationally. He has written dozens of peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and edited five textbooks in the field; served as president of the Society for Pediatric Emergency Medicine from 1990 to 1995, and as a longtime member of the subsection that wrote the PEM curriculum and board exam; and served as editor and national course director of the Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) course.

When Cantor was a pediatric resident at Upstate in the late 1970s, there was no such thing as a subspecialty of pediatric emergency medicine (PEM). But the young doctor knew he was happiest in emergent situations—the NICU, ICU, and ED. "I liked the immediate gratification. If you make the right clinical decision, you know within about 20 minutes that you made a good move," he says.

Emergency medicine residencies were in their infancy when Upstate launched its program, with Cantor recruited to handle pediatrics along with colleague Celeste Madden, MD '77, HS '80. "We worked the emergency department from 1 pm to 10 pm when the flow was high and saw about 4,000 kids a year," Cantor recalls of the early days. He became involved with the emerging PEM subspecialty nationwide and used what he learned to build a curriculum to teach emergency medicine to pediatric residents.

Cantor credits John McCabe, MD '79, then chair of emergency medicine at Upstate and later CEO of University Hospital, for all that came next. "He was a huge leader in the field who set an example and paved the way for the rest of us," says Cantor. "I could not have accomplished what I did here without his support."

In 1984, PEM became a board-certified subspecialty of pediatrics and Upstate launched a fellowship program, directed by Cantor. The Upstate PEM fellowship was one of the first programs to accept emergency medicine residents, rather than only pediatrics residents. The program thrived and Cantor takes pride in training and retaining talent from within, with many Upstate alumni within the ranks of the PEM faculty.

Around the same time, Cantor took over the Poison Control Center, which was primarily focused on pediatric poison prevention, responding to 3,000 calls annually. New York consolidated poison control centers throughout the state to just two—one at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and one at Upstate, and Cantor expanded the program with the addition of pharmacologists and additional toxicologists. The Upstate New York Poison Center now fields some 55,000 calls a year, many related to drug

overdose. Cantor was named Medical Director Emeritus when he stepped down from his leadership role.

"Dr. Cantor is largely responsible for making the Upstate New York Poison Center what it is today," says Vince Calleo, MD '14, HS '19, F '21, medical director of the Upstate New York Poison Center and assistant professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics. "Though he is a nationally known and respected figure, he is never too busy to help guide and mentor students, residents, and fellows to allow them to achieve their potential."

"As a graduate of the College of Medicine, I chose PEM because of Dr. Cantor. I stayed for pediatrics residency, and for pediatric emergency fellowship because of Dr. Cantor," adds Asalim Thabet, MD '09, G '13, F '16, associate professor of emergency medicine and clinical professor of pediatrics at Upstate. "Not only has he influenced every PEM graduate of Upstate, but he continues to imprint his academic excellence on those around the nation."

Cantor was recognized for his teaching both locally, as recipient of Upstate's President's Award for Teaching in 1994, and nationally by the American College of Emergency Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics. He continues to work with Upstate PEM fellows as a voluntary faculty member.

One of Cantor's most visible legacies is University Hospital's pediatric emergency room, which opened in 2016. The \$3-million renovation transformed the fourth floor into a state-of-the-art facility rivaling the best in the state. "It finally gave us the physical space for patients that matched the quality of the medical care provided," says Cantor.

But Cantor's greatest impact may be the growth of the PEM field itself. Today, PEM is the second-most competitive pediatric subspecialty in the country, following pediatric surgery, with a 3.8 to 1 ratio of applicants to fellowship spots nationally, and much higher at Upstate.

"I'm blessed that my first job was my best job," he says. "I'm a lucky man."

Albert I. Tydings '74, of Mandeville, LA, has an hour lecture on TB on tape by the great Dr. Robert Rohner from 1971 or early 1972. "He was voted best teacher in Syracuse 10 years in a row," he writes. "Listening to the tape is incredible."

1974

J. Peter Gregoire, of Romulus, NY, writes "As the 'elder' in our class of 1974, at age 28, with three children and a supportive wife, we managed to complete the challenge of medical school and residency. Our detour before entering medical school was via the Peace Corps as teachers in Tanzania, East Africa, a year of graduate school, and a three-year stint teaching high school in East Syracuse. Following a residency in family practice at Lancaster, PA, we moved to Arcade, NY, to fulfill a public health commitment. Then to Geneva, NY, in 1981, to work in the newly formed emergency department. The emergency room was the majority of my career, with a detour into family prac-

tice. Now retired since 2010, we are enjoying our four adult children and five grandchildren. Our two daughters have international marriages, Japan and Paraguay. These unions have greatly enriched our lives. We wish our classmates well and would love to hear from them: pgregoi1@rochester.rr.com."



Christine Heyse the morning after her surgery

Stephen P. Heyse, of Silver Spring, MD, and his wife, Chris, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in August, all the more meaningful due to events of the past months. "In early February, Chris developed severe and progressive congestive heart failure due to AV heart block. A pace-

maker was installed immediately by the staff at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, but her symptoms progressed due to severe mitral valve regurgitation, and she required open-heart replacement of her mitral valve plus other procedures on May 3. Chris has done amazingly well following the operation and is well on her way to returning to the tennis court where she longs to be," he shares.

Gary M. Kohn, of Algonquin, IL, is excited to welcome his first granddaughter into the world, Natalie Corrine Kohn, born on April 12.

Maria M. Shevchuk Chaban, of New York, NY, ended her five-year chairmanship of the College of American Pathologist's In Vivo Microscopy Committee, which deals with technologies including OCT used in ophthalmology, in December 2019. "In 2020, two of my three children were married in what I call 'COVID Weddings,' church services with immediate family," she writes. "The COVID quarantine and restrictions helped in my transition to retirement; I am pursuing creative endeavors, such as poetry and photography. I extend my best wishes to the class of 1974."

1976

Barry C. Altura, is now a retired pediatrician and living in Piney Flats, TN, after more than 37 years in practice in New York State. "Yes, one can truly live a normal life after being immersed in medicine for over half your life," he says. "Wishing all my classmates well."

Ronald Dushkin, of New York, NY, writes "I hope you are well and happy. I am alive and well in NYC, and still practicing holistic and homeopathic medicine. I recently completed eight years on the Board of the American Institute of Homeopathy, including three years as president of the Institute. The AIH, founded in 1844, is the oldest national medical association in the United States. Check out my website www.drdushkin.com. There is a short video on the first page of the site. Wishing you all health, joy, and deep satisfaction."

William N. Schreiber, of Woodbridge, CT, is happy to announce that both of his boys are now married, having been delayed a year by COVID.

1977 Reunion

September 16•17, 2022

William R. Latreille, of Malone, NY, was reelected as Speaker of the Medical Society of the State of New York on May 21.

Barton L. Sachs, of Mount Pleasant, SC, is still going strong in a new segment of his professional career as a medical officer at the FDA.



J. Peter Gregoire '74 and his wife, Patricia



Stephen E. Presser '78 and his wife, Barb

1978

Stephen E. Presser, of Pittsford, NY, writes "After 39 years of practicing Mohs surgery and general dermatology, I retired in March at the age of 70. Barb and I celebrated our fifth wedding anniversary on June 5. I miss my classmates and look forward to seeing them all at the next reunion September 2023."

1979

James P. Corsones, of Locust Grove, VA, and Linda welcomed a new grandchild, Genevieve on March 22.

1980

Andrew W. Gurman, of Hollidaysburg, PA, was honored by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons with the prestigious William W. Tipton Jr, MD, Leadership Award. The award recognizes the AAOS members who have demonstrated outstanding leader-

ship qualities that have benefitted the orthopaedic community, patients, and or the American public.

Alexander E. Weingarten, of Hollis, NY, continues to practice pain management and recently moved his office to Jericho, NY. He continues to practice part-time anesthesia at Nassau University Medical Center. His twin daughters recently graduated the honors program of Yeshiva University Stern College for Women.

1982 ReUnion

September 16-17, 2022

Alan Kawarai Lefor, of Utsunomiya, Japan, completed his PhD in Engineering at the University of Tokyo. Although becoming professor of surgery, Emeritus in April 2022, he will continue his teaching duties at Jichi Medical University and lecturing at a number of hospitals in the greater Tokyo area. "I am definitely not ready (or willing or planning) to stop anytime in the foreseeable future," he writes.

1983

George N. Coritsidis, of Southold, NY, is the program director of critical care nephrology at Westchester Medical Center. In addition, he volunteers his time on the board of directors of the nonprofit organization, Sights on Health, Inc. The nonprofit provides medical care, eye care, and eye surgery to those in need

in South America and also on one of the Indian Reservations in South Dakota. Health care professionals and students from across the USA, volunteer their time and expertise, including **Claire E. Triller '20**, who traveled to Peru as a third-year medical student several years ago for a medical mission. During the pandemic, they have provided financial support for medical and surgical supplies to the groups they have worked with in the past, as they have not traveled out of the country due to the COVID travel restrictions upon re-entering the USA. After receiving a letter from his roommate at Upstate, **Bob Dracker '82**, regarding the Ukrainian war and medical support, they talked over the phone about doing something. This led to forming a team to bicycle over 42 miles through the five boroughs of NYC on May 1. A total of \$37,068.83 was raised. These funds have been donated to Project Hope to purchase Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), and other medical supplies for Ukraine. These IEHKs are designed to meet the initial primary health care needs of displaced populations in areas with no access to medical facilities. The funds raised provided medical support to 40,000 Ukrainians for three months. Sights on Health plans to resume its international medical and surgical missions in early 2023. They are always looking for physicians, medical

students, and healthcare providers to volunteer their time and expertise. Please feel free to email sightsonhealth@gmail.com for further information.

Robert J. Ostrander, of Rushville, NY, has been the American Academy of Family Physicians representative to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Heritable Diseases of Newborns and Children since 2015 and their representative to the NIH Inter-Society Coordinating Committee on Practitioner Education in Genomics (ISCC-PEG) since 2018. His main role with the advisory committee is providing insight into the role of primary care physicians in caring for children with heritable diseases from positive screen through longitudinal follow up. For ISCC-PEG, he works on developing and disseminating educational materials in Genomics for non-geneticists. He will be giving his second talk at the AAFP annual meeting this fall on using pharmacogenetics in a family medicine practice.



Maribeth and Robert J. Ostrander '83

CLASS NOTES



Joan L. Thomas '83

Joan L. Thomas, of Daufuskie Island, SC, retired from full-time practice in December 2019 and continued working part-time until August 2021, when she fully retired. She now volunteers at Volunteers in Medicine on Hilton Head Island, SC, which is a free medical clinic for those who work but have no health care insurance. She recently finished her memoir, *The Heart of the Story*, about the improbable journey of a girl growing up in the 50s and 60s becoming a physician and cardiologist. "It also describes the discrimination I endured as well as the glass ceilings I broke during my career," she writes. The link to order a copy is: <https://shop.physicianleaders.org/collections/all/products/heart-story-improbable-journey-cardiologist-thomas>.

1984

Robert A. Zamelis, of Provo, UT, sends greetings to classmates. "My wife, Christal, our 17-year-old daughter, and I live near the mouth of the Provo Canyon, Utah. We love the mountains, although I miss

St. John U.S. Virgin Islands—where I really learned to love being a doctor. All my best hopes and wishes to everyone!"

1985

Jonathan P. Yunis, of Sarasota, FL, is thankful for an excellent medical education. "It is almost 40 years since graduation and I continue to grow and love this profession," he writes. "Only in this profession is everyday a school day! Hi to all of my amazing classmates."

1986

John J. Labiak, of Saint James, NY, is happy to announce the engagement of his youngest child, Kaitlin, to David Glaser.



Kaitlin, daughter of John J. Labiak '86, with her fiancé

1987 ReUnion

September 16•17, 2022

1988

Gary Kurmis, of Reno, NV, has mostly retired from private practice in anesthesiology and moved from Los Angeles to Reno, a more laidback area.

1991

John C. Brancato, of West Hartford, CT, was named division head of pediatric emergency medicine at University of Connecticut and Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Paul C. Buechel, of Nolensville, TN, published his third book, *Dissecting the World's Religions: Which Stand Up to the Test?* and subtitled, *A Physician Biopsies Man's Faith Systems, And, Are You Following the Correct Path?* "Intended for both the Christian as well as those mired in the wallows of false faith systems' spiritual confusion, this text provides a biopsy, a flame or litmus test, if you will, i.e., a logical set of criteria that can be applied to any religion in order to reveal either its genuine validity, or lack thereof," he writes. "These criteria, when applied to any faith, will reveal its genuine merits and validity. In truth, this is the most important assessment you will ever make in your lifetime. Be certain you are on the correct path!"



Bradley P. Fox, of Fairview, PA, was recently honored as an outstanding family medicine physician, by the AHN Saint Vincent Hospital on National Doctor's Day on March 31. Also, in the past year he has knocked two things off his bucket list, getting published and acting in a movie. "I wrote a chapter in *Soul of Erie Sports in the City by the Lake* on the Erie SeaWolves about my experience as team physician, and I was an extra in *Alexander the Brain* (<https://www.oddityproductions.com/alexander-the-brain>), which has won several independent movie awards and has been nominated for multiple others."



Bradley P. Fox '91, far left

1992 ReUnion

September 16•17, 2022

1994

James M. Elia, of Willow Street, PA, continues to work as a full-time family physician in Lancaster, PA, in the "healing arts" but is branching out into other interests. "I have explored creating art, mostly watercolor, but also oil, pastels, acrylic, ceramics, and glass-blowing. I have launched my website, [artistrybynight](http://artistrybynight.com).

The Second Act

For 25 years, James Wilson, MD '89, was the sole pediatric neurosurgeon practicing in the state of Maine. "The average neurosurgeon does 150 to 200 cases a year, and I averaged more than 425 cases," he says.

Those patients were referred from across the state, as well as New Hampshire, and included pediatric vascular neurosurgery, brain and spinal cord tumors, craniofacial reconstruction, spina bifida surgery, and pediatric head trauma.

"I was basically on call every day and every night. Even if I wasn't on the call schedule, I would get called to help manage patients until I got there in the morning," Dr. Wilson says. "I had spectacular partners that covered for me in my absence, but it was pretty much never ending."

Because of the demands of his profession, Wilson made a concerted effort to prioritize family time and recreational pursuits. He says he was fortunate to grow up with a wonderful father himself, an auto mechanic who taught him the skills of his trade as well as to hunt and fish. By contrast, he had an uncle who was a neurosurgeon, who he viewed as a miserable father. "In undergrad and medical school, when asked what kind of doctor I wanted to be, I'd respond, "Anything but a neurosurgeon," he says.

But in the course of his studies, Wilson found that neuroanatomy came easily to him. "It just made sense," he says.

Setting a path to become a neuroradiologist, Wilson needed to pick up additional neuro-related electives to bolster his residency application. That included a rotation with Michael Shende, MD, HS '69, a neurosurgeon practicing at Crouse Irving Hospital. "It was so above and beyond anything I'd seen in my life," he recalls. "Within a week, I knew that was it."

Wilson completed his neurosurgery residency at the University of Vermont, where he



Dr. Wilson turned his lifetime passion for hunting and fishing into a second career as fishing and big game hunting guide.

became very close to his faculty members, in particular, the pediatric neurosurgeon. "He had done his fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, which was the foremost institution for pediatric neurosurgery in the world, and I basically followed in his footprints," he says.

He knew he wanted to practice in an area where he could hunt, fish, and raise a family. As it happened, his residency program was starting a rotation at the Maine Medical Center, and as a fifth-year resident, Wilson was the first slated to go. Two weeks in he was offered a job. "I signed a contract that I would do my fellowship and wouldn't look elsewhere for jobs," he says.

Two years later, he moved to Maine and never left. "I absolutely adored my job and my patients. I felt so blessed to be taking care of these children, and the families were just humbling with their strength," says Wilson. "I didn't get burned out; I just wanted to do other things."

In 2015, Wilson made plans to retire at the end of 2020. He and his wife, Meg, a novelist and screenwriter, split their time between Westport Island, Maine, and Florida. Over the years, Wilson turned his love for hunting and fishing into more of an avocation, obtaining a master license as both a hunting and fishing guide as well as a master captain's license from the U.S. Coast Guard.



He guides big game archery hunters in Northern Maine in their pursuit of moose, black bear, and deer, as well as high-elevation backpack hunting in Alaska, British Columbia, and the Rockies.

Otherwise, whether taking out a charter or on his own, Wilson says he's on the water by 5 a.m. each morning fishing for striped bass, or later in the season, for shark or bluefin tuna. "We live on a piece of water called Hell's Gate. It's a violent gorge where water comes rushing through from two very large bays and it's just ideal fishing," he says. "And that's right in front of my house."

In winter months in Florida, he spends five out of seven days in pursuit of Tarpon, or backcountry fishing in a nearby marine preserve. When not hunting, fishing, or spending time with one of his five adult children, you might find him in his welding shop, working on a classic car. "Right now, I've got a 1967 Firebird convertible that's taking up some time," he says.

In other words, life is good. "I feel extraordinarily fortunate with my family, my career, and the way life has panned out," he says. "I'm very blessed."

CLASS NOTES



Artwork by James M. Elia '94



com, which showcases my artwork for viewing, as well as sales of original art, prints on various media, and availability for commissions, all in my spare time. 'Physician by day,' 'artist by night.'"

1995

Joseph D. Pianka, has been a practicing gastroenterologist for the past 21 years, a father of three in the Newport, RI area, and has recently authored the book *It's All in Your Head*, pertaining to nutrition, fitness, and self-inspiration as we enter the dawn of the post pandemic "new normal." Part bio-narrative, he candidly touches upon sensitive issues such as depression and provider burnout, which were prime motivators inspiring his writing of the book. Included are many fond memories of his four years of medical school in Syracuse, which members of the Upstate family, both past and present, may find amusing, and in retrospect, are considered by the author to be the four most important years of his life. Part of the proceeds from sales of the book will go to Ukraine relief efforts.

1997 ReUnion

September 16-17, 2022

1999

Eric H. Jensen of Edina, MN, completed a general surgery residency in Syracuse, followed by fellowship training in surgical oncology at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer

Center in Tampa, FL. He is currently professor, chief, and John P. Delaney Chair of clinical surgical oncology at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN. He is also the associate chief of the oncology service line for the MHealth Fairview Hospital System. He and his wife, Kimberly, have two children, Madeline, age 15 and William, age 11. "We have fond memories of our time in Syracuse, and I am grateful to have received such a great education there," he writes.

2000

Shelley V. Street Callender, of Macon, GA, and Charles celebrated 12 years of marriage on July 18. They are excited about their two boys: Victor, age six, and Wynter, age three.

Ricky C. Kue, of Norwell, MA, is a Colonel in the Vermont Army National Guard, currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain). He recently completed a two-week rotation providing medical support during Exercise Swift Response 2022 in North Macedonia. Exercise Swift



Ricky C. Kue '02, far left

Response is an annual U.S. Army Europe and Africa multi-national training exercise as part of the European Defense Initiative. This year, it has been held in various countries in Eastern Europe, the Arctic High North, Baltics, and Balkans. As part of the Department of Defense National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program, the Vermont National Guard has partnered with North Macedonia since 1993. He returned from a six-month deployment with his unit to the Middle East in 2021 as the Task Force Avalanche Battalion Surgeon and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his service in support of Operation Spartan Shield. He has 20 years of military service which include three overseas combat deployments.

2002 ReUnion

September 16-17, 2022

2005

Mita R. Patel, of Cleveland, OH, writes "I am blessed to be a year older and to have a great job and family, including three

amazing kiddos. I left Cleveland Clinic to be medical director of the breast cancer program at Bon Secours Mercy Health. I just took on director of specialty services. It's been a great journey so far!"



Mita R. Patel '05 with her family

2006

Elizabeth K. Nelsen, of Liverpool, NY, has been selected by the Association of Pediatric Program Directors to serve as the inaugural chair of the program directors executive committee. She will serve a one-year term as chair (2022-23) and one-year term as immediate past chair (2023-24). She is an associate professor of pediatrics at Upstate Medical University. In addition to her role as program director for the pediatric residency program, she is a general pediatrician at Upstate Pediatric and Adolescent Center, the outpatient pediatric office associated with Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

2007 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

Anju Hurria, of Orange, CA, became chief wellness officer for University of California, Irvine Medical Center, in July 2021. She oversees wellness for all employees and staff of the health system and the four colleges of health sciences: nursing, medicine, public health, and pharmacy.

2008

Valerie Elberson, of Orchard Park, NY, and her husband David Lewandowski welcomed a new baby on March 3.



Daughter of Valerie Elberson '08

Robert Nastasi, of Melbourne, FL, recently accepted a position as Acting Chief VISION 9 CRH Telepain, responsible for managing virtual pain management covering regions of five neighboring states and all of Kentucky and Tennessee. His wife, Wendy, sons Ethan, nine; Quinn, seven; and daughter Lilith, four, enjoy their time swimming, the beach, and space camp!

2009

Dodji V. Modjinou, of Las Vegas, NV, wife Leticia, and daughter Elom, join in sharing the news of the birth of son Senam Tiago Modjinou, born on January 21, 2022, at 8 lbs and 21 inches. "We celebrate his addition to our family and thank all the well-wishers!"



Dodji V. Modjinou '09, with his wife, Leticia, and daughter Elom



Senam Tiago Modjinou, son of Dodji V. Modjinou '09

2012 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

Anna Klausner, of Princeton, NJ, will be married to Charles Jones, PhD, MBA, on September 4, 2022, in Bermuda.

2013

Emily (Cupelo) Daugherty and **Michael Daugherty**, of Cincinnati, OH, welcomed their third child, Maeve Barbara, to the world in early June 2022. Older siblings, Jack and Grace, as well as her grandfather, **Bob Cupelo '82** are very proud!



Maeve Barbara Daugherty, daughter of Emily Daugherty '13 and Michael Daugherty '13

2016

Zach Antonov, of Hillsborough, NC, recently published a book, *I Watch You Sleep: A Doctor's Tales of Anesthesia and Chain Restaurants*. It is a humorous yet meaningful memoir-of-sorts about a life in medicine and anesthesiology.



Valini G. Gosine, of New York, NY, "Finally tied the knot with **Marie L. Fleury '16** on July 10, 2021, in Skaneateles, NY," she writes.



Valini G. Gosine '16 and Marie L. Fleury '16

Sarah G. Mahonski, and **Devin J. Burke**, of New York, NY, announce their wedding engagement. They recently completed their respective fellowships in medical toxicology at New York University and neurocritical care at New York Presbyterian/Columbia. They will be moving back to Syracuse to be closer to family and are excited to start as faculty at Upstate Medical University in 2022.



Devin J. Burke '16 and Sarah G. Mahonski '16

Jordan R. Vokes, of Caledonia, NY, will finish his fellowship in pediatric orthopaedics at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at the end of July, and will begin practice at Pediatric Orthopedics of SWFL in Fort Myers, FL.

CLASS NOTES

2018

Kathleen A. Iles, and Taylor Gleeson, of Durham, NC, were married in February 2022. They were joined by many Upstate friends!



Kathleen Iles '18 and her husband, Taylor Gleeson, joined by their Upstate friends (left to right): Tara Brenner '17, Ian Kratzke '17, Steve Siano '19, Justin Zhao '18, Marc Seligson '18, Matt Ringer '18, Danielle Decourcey '18, Mike Decourcey '18, Julie Henderson '18, William Reed '18, Gabby Izzo '18, Matt Levausser '18, Alissa Olson Thieke '18, and Fred Varone '18

2019

Shiv U. Patel, of San Francisco, CA, **Jenny L. Schreiber**, of Rochester, NY, and **John Fountain**, who went on to their separate internal medicine residency programs, met again as upcoming chief residents at the APDIM Conference in Charlotte, NC. They participated in a two-day orientation preparing them for their chief years.



John H. Fountain '19, Jenny L. Schreiber '19, and Shiv U. Patel '19

2021

Sydney H. Russell Leed, of Cambridge, MA, is enjoying psychiatry residency at Cambridge Health Alliance in Cambridge. "I plan on pursuing forensics and/or geriatrics and am grateful for the time I have to explore all my interests, in psychiatry and beyond it," she writes. "I miss the connections I made to the Syracuse community but am starting to work with community organizations here in Cambridge. I would love to hear from alumni in the Boston area!"

2022

Bethany R. Marbaker, of Rochester, NY, writes "After getting married in May 2020 with only nine people present and having our celebration postponed again in early 2021, my husband Tyler Marbaker and I were finally able to renew our vows and celebrate our marriage with friends and family on May 7, 2022. Several Upstate classmates were in attendance to celebrate our marriage and our recent graduation."



Bethany R. Marbaker '22 and husband Tyler

Residents

Jean Hwang, of Bend, OR, graduated from the Yale University MPH program in 2022, and will be working at the NIH.

Mary A. Hartshorn, of Rochester, NY, writes "With the latest incident of use of an assault rifle for a mass shooting, I'm trying to motivate physicians and police to put our powerful voices behind demanding that Congress pass a ban on the sale of these items to civilians. This does not infringe anyone's second amendment rights, and it can make our country a lot safer. I'm hoping anybody reading this will write their congress people (especially senators) to press for this.

As docs, we know the damage these weapons can do, both physically and emotionally, not least to survivors and their loved ones. Let's help make a "docs and cops" alliance to get this done. Many thanks! On the personal front, I'm now 75 and still doing psychiatry."

Jeffrey S. Sneider, of Syracuse, NY, retired from practice in 2019, after 40 years of providing outpa-

tient primary care internal medicine service. He continues to work part-time as a physician for Menorah Park Nursing Home in Syracuse and remains active with the local and state medical societies. He has a regular meditation practice having accepted the precepts of Zen Buddhism in a ceremony in November 2021.



Richard H. Strauss, Mike Barrett, and Jeff Thompson

Richard H. Strauss, of La Crosse, WI, and former pediatric chief residents **Jeff Thompson** (1981-82), and **Mike Barrett** (1982-83), skied the 29 km Kortelopet cross-country ski trip in Cable, WI, on February 23, 2022. All three survived the challenge on a beautiful, but cold day in the north woods. They had a great time together, and each won his individual category (married, male, older pediatrician who completed a pediatric residency at Upstate in the 1980s) in a group of 1,000 skiers. The Kortelopet and its longer partner, the American Birkebeiner 51 km (~ 8000 skiers), are the U.S. part of the Worldloppet circuit. "Join us in 2023."



Jeffrey S. Sneider

I N M E M O R I A M

1944

HARRY P. FELGER, of Mashpee, MA, died October 31, 2021. Following medical school at the end of World War II, Dr. Felger was stationed in Brooklyn, NY, and served as a transport surgeon. He was on staff at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn for more than 35 years. He was rotating chief of surgery and director of medical education in charge of interns and residents, and he served on the board of trustees of the hospital. Felger was survived by his second wife, Muriel; and daughters Vicki and Sookie.

ROBERT L. NELSON, of Carlsbad, CA, died April 11. Dr. Nelson received training at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY, and Queens General Hospital. He was a member of the U.S. Naval Reserves and served on active duty as a medical officer onboard the USS Briareus during World War II, and with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean conflict. Nelson was survived by his daughter, Christine; sons Robert, John, and Tony; five granddaughters; and one great-granddaughter.

1952

HAROLD E. HUNTER, of Lansdale, PA, died March 1. Dr. Hunter served in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot in World War II. He started his medical career as a family practitioner in Syracuse. He chose to further his education and continue his career as an anesthesiologist at Community General Hospital. In 1976, he began working at Hilton Head Hospital in South Carolina. While there, he served as president of the medical staff and vice president of medical affairs. He retired in 1994 and later moved to Vero Beach, FL. Hunter was survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters Sharon and Suzanne; four granddaughters; and nine great-grandchildren.

1953

JOHN (JACK) FAIGLE, of Stony Brook, NY, died March 30. Dr. Faigle completed his residency training in pediatrics in Queens, NY. He also served in the Merchant Marine and was a doctor in the U.S. Air Force. He practiced pediatrics in the Three Village Area for 30 years and was on staff at all area hospitals. He served as chief of pediatrics at Mather Hospital. Faigle's second career was as a pilot examiner for the Federal Aviation Administration. He also served as a volunteer doctor for the Stony Brook Fire Department. He was survived by his wife, Jane; daughters Catherine, Elizabeth and Carolyn; son Michael; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

PAUL P. STOBNICKE, of Fayetteville, NY, died June 5. Dr. Stobnicke enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, attaining the rank of captain in the 70th Fighter Squadron 13th Air Force, South Pacific Theater. He flew 91 combat missions in his favorite plane, the P39 Lightning, with a picture of his wife Sybil painted on it. After the war, he graduated from Syracuse University and Upstate College of Medicine. He spent his life in Syracuse practicing family medicine for nearly 50 years. He was an attending at Community General Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, and Crouse Irving. He was past president of the Academy of Family Practice Syracuse chapter. He was a long-standing member of the Onondaga County Medical Society and the NYS Medical Society. Stobnicke received the Onondaga County Medical Society's Community Service Award for service to the county's children. He delivered hundreds of babies and cared for several generations of their families. In 2019, he was part of Honor Flight Syracuse Mission 14. In 2020, he was interviewed for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, and in 2021, he was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame. Stobnicke was survived by his daughters, Paula and Kat; sons David, Michael, and Gary; 12 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

1957

ROBERT W. DALY, of DeWitt, NY, died on July 4. Dr. Daly attended St. Lawrence University under an accelerated pre-med program and earned his medical degree from what was then the SUNY Health Science Center. Anyone who knew him heard endless stories of his internship at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine in the Bronx, where he was on the front lines of the influenza pandemic. He finished his residency in psychiatry at Upstate in 1961 and joined the Strategic Air Command as a captain at Barksdale Air force base in Shreveport, LA. He rejoined the SUNY Upstate Department of Psychiatry in 1964 and served as a professor of psychiatry and bioethics and humanities, and as a clinical psychiatrist, for 40 years. Daly was the first chair of the University Hospital Ethics Committee and of its Ethics Consultation Service. In 1978, he co-founded the Consortium for the Cultural Foundations of Medicine, now called the Consortium for Culture and Medicine. He was a founder of the Institute for Ethics in Health Care, a community-based organization he led from 1995-2004. From 1999-2012, he served as an examiner for doctoral dissertations in philosophy and social sciences at Syracuse University. Daly was a visiting scholar in philosophy at the University of Cambridge (King's College) and a Senior Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He lectured

in Europe, China, and throughout the United States. Daly received many academic awards and published widely in the fields of medical ethics, the nature of madness, and psychiatry. Daly was married to his wife, Elizabeth, for 52 years until her death in 2011. After Liz's death, he took up poetry and published many poems about his grief. Through the writing and sharing of his inspired, concise poems, Daly found a worthy outlet for his loss and reflections on life, while bringing joy and comfort to others. Daly was survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Kendra and Peter Winkelstein and Lauren and Stephen Wallace; his sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Qiangwei Daly, John Daly and Mary Mab FitzGerald, and Erik and Kathleen; 15 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren; his brother, John; and other family.

ARNOLD H. DERWIN, of Studio City, CA died November 14, 2021.

EUGENE ALKEN KAPLAN, of Cazenovia, NY, died July 17. Born in Syracuse, Dr. Kaplan earned a B.A., magna cum laude, in 1954 from Syracuse University. He went on to earn his MD from Upstate Medical University in 1957. He worked as a medical intern at Albert Einstein Medical Center in New York City, and then returned to Syracuse in 1958 to complete a psychiatry residency at SUNY Upstate. This began what turned into a 60-year career at Upstate, where he was employed until his passing and where he held many positions, including director of residency training, director of undergraduate education, director of the behavioral science program, chair of the Department of Psychiatry, and tenured Professor. His distinguished career included numerous committee roles and honors, including the President's Award for Excellence in Professional Services in 2015. In 2020, the American Psychiatric Association awarded him the status of Distinguished Life Fellow and for 24 years he served on the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology's Exam Committee. In addition to his dedicated career in teaching and psychiatry, Kaplan served as a Commander in the United States Navy Medical Corps and the United States Navy from 1967 to 1969. Kaplan's most unique lifelong trait was his remarkable optimism that permeated his outlook on, and approach to, everything. He was an accomplished pianist, enjoyed sailing on Cazenovia Lake, and traveling. Kaplan was survived by his wife of 61 years, Sandra; his daughters Susan Lue and Karen Kaplan; and grandchildren Nicole and Derek Lue and Jaden and Taem Kaplan.

IN MEMORIAM

1959

PHILIP A. ZETTERSTRAND, of Brooklyn, NY, died June 5. Dr. Zetterstrand completed his residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital-New York Weill Cornell Center. He was a gifted surgeon and helped many patients, his caring heart guiding his scientific skill. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Spain for several years as a medical physician. Zetterstrand was survived by his wife, Emma; children Wendy, Nils, Karin and Sylvia; and six grandchildren.

1960

DANIEL L. DOMBROSKI, Sr., of Camillus, NY, died March 13. Dr. Dombroski started his residency in general surgery at Upstate. After serving two years in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to complete his surgical training at Upstate. In 1967, he started in private practice, eventually moving his practice to Upstate at Community General Hospital, where he was an attending surgeon. He also served as courtesy staff at St. Joseph's Hospital, Crouse Irving Hospital, and as an assistant clinical professor of surgery at Upstate. In 1982, he was chosen as a delegate to the Medical Society of the State of New York. From 1982-1983, he served as president of the Onondaga County Medical Society. He retired from surgery in 2012. Dombroski was survived by his wife, Myra; daughter Karen; sons Daniel Jr. '91, Stephen, David and Peter; and 10 grandchildren.

1962

GERALD A. GLOWACKI, of Cockeysville, MD, died May 6. Dr. Glowacki practiced obstetrics and gynecology. He was survived by his wife, Carole; daughter Janice; son Scott; and one grandchild. Donations can be made in his memory to the Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation, Setnor Academic Building, Ste. 1510, 750 East Adams St. Syracuse, NY 13210.

BEDROS "PETE" MARKARIAN, of Hilton Head, SC, died March 10. Dr. Markarian earned his medical degree with a specialty in pathology. After completing an internship at the University of Virginia, he returned to Upstate and was a member of the teaching faculty until his retirement in 1998. Markarian was survived by his wife, Judy; sons Michael and Peter; and two grandchildren.

1964

ALAN M. ROTH, of Sacramento, CA, died December 28, 2021.

1966

NORMAN DISHOTSKY, of Palo Alto, CA, died September 12, 2021. Dr. Dishotsky completed his psychiatry residency at Stanford University and served in the psychiatry field for almost five decades in private practice, while concurrently serving as a member of the Stanford University faculty as emeritus adjunct clinical professor. Dishotsky dedicated himself to the betterment of his patients and never thought of retiring; he maintained a regular roster of patients until his very last days. Dishotsky was survived by his wife, Genevieve; daughter Rebecca; sons Aaron and Jonathan; and five grandchildren.

GARY LEE FANNING, of Saint Paul, MN, died January 4, 2021. Following his internship and residency in anesthesia at University of Rochester, he served in the U.S. Army for two years. He then practiced anesthesia in Iowa for 20 years. Fanning worked at Hauser-Ross Eye Institute until his retirement. He published a book in 2012, *Things I Didn't Learn in Medical School: Tough Lessons From a Lifetime of Practice*, in which he shared his lifetime experiences. He was well known in North American ophthalmic anesthesia circles and was a regular invited speaker to Middlesbrough videoconference and the BOAS annual scientific meetings, for which he received BOAS Life Time Achievement Award in 2003. In the late 1990s, Fanning was the scientific organizer of Ophthalmic Anesthesia Society. He and a colleague wanted ophthalmic anesthesia safer in other parts of the world, which led to the founding of the 1st World Congress of Ophthalmic Anesthesia held in London 2004. Fanning was survived by his family.

RONALD A. HENRIKSON, (Col., USAF) of Colorado Springs, CO, died March 15, 2019. Dr. Henrikson completed his internship at Upstate and pediatric residency at Akron Children's Hospital. He entered the U.S. Air Force a year later, beginning his 30-year career at Mather Air Force Base in California. Two years later, he rose to chief of pediatric services. He then served as chief of pediatrics and chief of clinical services at the U.S. Air Force Clinic on Zweibrucken Air Base, Germany; chairman of Department of Pediatrics and director of hospital services at the U.S. Air Force Regional Hospital on Carswell AFB, TX; commander of the U.S. Air Force Hospital on Whiteman AFB, MO; commander of U.S. Air Force Hospital on Ellsworth AFB, SD; commander of the 509th Strategic Hospital on Pease AFB,

NH, medical inspection team leader in the directorate of medical inspection at Norton AFB, CA; deputy surgeon and director of professional services, at air training command headquarters on Randolph AFB, TX; commander of the 42nd medical group on Maxwell AFB, AL; and finally chief of the Air Force branch of the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He retired from the Air Force in 1999. Henrikson was survived by his daughter, Sonja; son Erik; and six grandchildren.

ERNEST KOVACS, of Glen Cove, NY, died January 13, 2020. Dr. Kovacs completed his residency training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He was a valued member on the faculty of the Long Island Jewish Hospital, where he trained hundreds of young psychiatrists for more than five decades. In 2017, the FAA awarded him The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to commemorate his safe flying record of more than 50 years. Kovacs was survived by his wife, Rhonda; sons Lawrence and David; step-daughter Jessica; six grandchildren.

GERALD J. MCKENNA, of Lihue, HI, died November 1, 2021. Dr. McKenna was a community psychiatrist, physician leader, and expert in the evaluation and treatment of substance use disorders (addiction), and a fearless advocate against injustice, especially for persons struggling with addiction. McKenna was survived by his family.

1970

A PETER PALADIN, Jr., of Seven Hills, OH, died March 27, 2021. After earning his medical degree, Dr. Paladin became a fellow in child development, a professor of pediatrics, and later, a regional co-chief of pediatrics, serving patients at University Hospitals of Cleveland, the Cleveland Clinic, Metro-Health Medical Center, Lakewood Hospital, Fairview General Hospital and Kaiser Permanente. He practiced pediatrics through 2000. Following retirement, he continued to work as a medical practitioner from 2002-2015. Paladin was survived by his wife, Carol; daughter Lisa; and son Dan.

1973

BRIAN W. BEACH, of Owego, NY, died March 2, 2019. Dr. Beach completed his family practice residency at Wilson Memorial Hospital in Johnson City, NY, and had a family practice in Owego from 1976-2013. Beach was survived by his wife, Sharon; daughters Courtney and Stacey; and two grandchildren.

1974

MARK F. BELLINGER, of Pittsburgh, PA, died February 9. Dr. Bellinger practiced pediatric urology. He developed a passion for helping children in Africa who had limited access to surgery and traveled to Ghana, Zambia, and Senegal through International Volunteers in Urology to donate his time performing back-to-back surgeries for several days. He retired from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Bellinger was survived by his wife, Catherine; daughters Deb and Katie; sons Mike and Todd; and six grandchildren.

RONALD AARON FISCHMAN, of Los Angeles, CA, died May 16. Dr. Fischman was the co-founder of Southland Renal Medical Group in Southern California and was a leading board-certified nephrologist and internist. He completed his nephrology training at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York City. Fischman was survived by his wife, Cora, son Michael; daughters Leslie and Nicole; and four grandchildren.

1976

EDWARD F. BURKE, of Surprise, AZ, died March 20.

1977

PETER V. CIANI, of Sun City, AZ, died February 5.

HERSCHEL CLEVELAND MARCUS, of Pine Bluff, AR, died April 21, 2020. Dr. Marcus was survived by his wife, Kimberly; sons Benjamin, Herschel and Kevin; and daughter Kimberly.

1978

CHARLES E. BATHRICK, of Fairview, PA, died March 19, 2020.

PAUL V. MONTALBINE, of Shelburne Hills, MA, died October 10, 2016. Dr. Montalbine was board certified in internal medicine and emergency medicine. He practiced at Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital and Mountain Medical Urgent Care in the Tri-Lakes region of northern New York. Montalbine was survived by his daughters, Gretchen and Arlan; and three grandchildren.

1985

ROBERT C. BERLIN, of Jackson Hole, WY, died May 15. Dr. Berlin moved to Jackson Hole in 1990 and founded Jackson Hole Medical Imaging

at St. John's Hospital in 1992, where he spent his 24-year career. He gave creative presentations on his work nationally and internationally. In 2014, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and devoted himself to continuing his life as an athlete, competing in LoToJa and the Michael J. Fox Foundation's Tour De Fox. Berlin was survived by his daughters, Shaena and Nina; one grandson; partner Dana; Dana's son Daegan; sister Karen; and Nancy Berlin, mother of his children.

Residents

JOHN G. BENDO, of Towanda, PA, died April 9. He graduated from New York University with a medical degree in 1971. He completed a general surgery residency in Vermont, followed by two years as a U.S. Navy Medical Corps medical officer, and then three years of residency in urology at Upstate, which he completed in 1978. He had private practices in Maine, Michigan, and then Montana, before joining the local clinic in Montana. He moved to Pennsylvania in 2002 and retired in 2010. He was survived by his son, George; daughter Elisabeth; and two granddaughters.

EDWARD W. CARSKY, of Skaneateles, NY, and Naples, FL, died December 28, 2019. Dr. Carsky was a World War II veteran serving in the Navy. A graduate of New York Medical College, he completed residency at Upstate preparing for the practice of diagnostic radiology. He practiced for 13 years at Crouse Hospital followed by 27 years at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center. He was radiology department chair at both hospitals. Carsky was clinical professor of radiology at Upstate, recipient of the E. Robert Heitzman Award, and the Medical Center President's Award for medical student teaching. He received the Sister Patricia Ann Award at St. Joseph's for Physician of the Year. He was survived by his children, Elaine, Cecily, Edward, and William; 16 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

RICHARD F. CATALANO, of Sarasota, FL, died October 31, 2018. He served as president of the staff of Marymount Hospital (a Cleveland Clinic hospital) in the 1990s. Dr. Catalano specialized in internal medicine and maintained an active private practice. He was a former captain in the U.S. Air Force. He was survived by his wife, Sara; son Richard; daughter Susan; and one grandson.

RAYMOND J. CASSADY, of Jamesville, NY, died July 4, 2019. Dr. Cassady was a pediatrician in private practice and a physician for the Syracuse City School District. Cassady was survived by his children, Patrick, Timothy, Kathleen, Frances, and Margaret; six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

JACOB (JACK) TRISTER CHACHKES, of New Canaan, CT, died in August 2019. Dr. Chachkes earned his medical degree in 1958 from the University of Chicago Medical School, completed his residency in psychiatry at Upstate in 1962, and his diplomate in psychiatry in 1966. Chachkes served in the U.S. Air Force as director of psychiatric services at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA, and as director of the community clinic at the Silver Hill Foundation in New Canaan before opening a private practice there. Chachkes was survived by his wife, Bette; daughters, Andrea and Karen; and three grandchildren.

GERALD NICHOLAS CIMMINO, of Fairfield, CT, died August 2, 2021. Dr. Cimmino was a graduate of Yale University and Yale Medical School. He later practiced ophthalmology and was chief of ophthalmology at Griffin Hospital in Derby. Cimmino was survived by his wife, Dona; children Jerry, Cheryl, Laura, Michael and Richard; 14 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM J. ESPOSITO, of Summit, NJ, died May 1, 2021. Dr. Esposito graduated from New York University and New York Medical College. He was the head of the radiology department at Overlook Hospital for many years prior to retirement. While there, he taught and mentored many residents. Esposito was survived by his son, William Jr.; daughter Licia; and two grandchildren.

ALFRED E. FALCONE, of Jamesville, NY, died December 29, 2021. Dr. Falcone was a maxillofacial and plastic surgeon. He attended University at Buffalo Dental School through a wartime accelerated program. Upon graduation from dental school in 1947, he was accepted into the University at Buffalo Medical School. He then completed general surgery and plastic surgery residency training at Upstate Medical Center from 1951-1957, including a two-year stint as a captain in the U.S. Air Force stationed as a flight surgeon in Europe. Falcone was in private practice in Syracuse and operated mainly at St. Joseph's Hospital. As one of the only plastic surgeons in Central New York with dental and surgical training, he specialized in the surgical reconstruction of congenital facial deformities, such as cleft lips and palates. He was a clinical assistant instructor in plastic surgery at Upstate Medical University for 20 years and also completed a master's degree in Health Services Administration. He received the Community Service Award from the Onondaga County Medical Society. Falcone was survived by his wife, Françoise; children, Stephen, Dr. Philip '84, Nathalie, Lisa, Christine, Alexia, Emmanuel, and Paul; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT P. GANNON, of Mt. Lebanon, PA, died December 7, 2018. He graduated from Marquette University School of Medicine in 1958 and completed residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Upstate from 1963-1966. Dr. Gannon served as head of the division of obstetrics at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, head of the division of gynecology at Mercy Hospital, and was clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pittsburgh and the Medical College of Pennsylvania. He was an early pioneer in colposcopy for the treatment of cervical cancer. He retired in 2000. Gannon was survived by his wife, Nancy; children Mary Beth, Mark, Kevin, Sean, Meghan and Erin; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

WALTER T. GILSDORF, of Ashburn, VA, died May 6. Dr. Gilsdorf graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1959 and completed his orthopedic residency at Upstate. He was a well-respected orthopedic surgeon for 34 years. He served on the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct. Gilsdorf was survived by his wife, Barbara; son Jeffrey; daughter Jennifer; and six grandchildren.

RICHARD S. KRONER, of Poughkeepsie, NY, died May 10, 2020. He received his medical degree from New York Medical College in 1964. He specialized in infectious diseases and was on the forefront of treating patients at the beginning of the HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s. He maintained his medical practice until retirement in 1996. Kroner was survived by his wife, Louisa; son Joshua; daughter Felicia; and four grandchildren.

SAM R. MASON, Jr., of Skaneateles, NY, died December 24, 2020. Dr. Mason attended Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania on a Navy scholarship and majored in biology and psychology. The Navy sent him to medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. After residency, he was assigned to Camp Pendleton, CA, for two years. After his Navy service, he opened a private practice that grew to cover a large area in Cortland County and worked at Cortland Memorial Hospital for decades. He was ultimately appointed chief of cardiology at Cortland Memorial Hospital and clinical assistant professor of medicine at Upstate Medical University. Mason was survived by his children, Sam, Linda, David, John, and Lisa; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

PAUL J. MEIS, of Winston Salem, NC, died April 17. Dr. Meis served in the U.S. Army in Georgia and Germany from 1959-1962 as a general medical officer and then trained in obstetrics and gynecology at Upstate from 1962-1965. He practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Lacrosse, WI, from 1965-1975, and later completed a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. He joined the faculty of Wake Forest University School of Medicine,

where he was professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and later, professor emeritus. He was president of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research. He was proudest of the breakthrough study he published in 2003 that demonstrated the first effective treatment to prevent preterm birth in mothers at risk; the use of progesterone treatment has become a standard of care for mothers at high risk for delivering preterm. Meis was survived by his wife, Marcia; sons Steven and Doug; and two grandsons.

LEROY (ROY) G. MESHEL, of Ross, CA, died on January 1, 2021. Dr. Meshel graduated from University of Vermont Medical School and trained at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, Upstate Medical University, and Schepens Eye Research Institute in Boston. Meshel finished his training in neuropathology, ophthalmic pathology, and neuro-ophthalmology, with fellowships at the Montefiore Medical Center and the University of California San Francisco Medical Center. He was board certified in ophthalmology in 1972 and opened practices in San Francisco and Daly City, where he worked until his retirement in 2000. He worked with patients that had been born without an iris and had cataracts that dimmed their sight. He and San Francisco lithographer Vernon Gregory began working together on ways of putting the right tint on soft contact lenses. Eventually a method was developed to create a duplicate image of a patient's good eye to cover the damaged one. In 1974, he founded Narcissus Eye Research, a non-profit foundation, to continue the development and production of this customized contact lens for more than 30,000 patients with damaged eyes, attracting patients from all over the world. In the 1980s, Meshel was contacted by NASA to design contact lenses for space motion sickness. These lenses were worn by the astronauts on eight space shuttle missions. Meshel was survived by his wife, Esther; daughters Sama, Mima and Leda; and seven grandchildren.

GERALD PATRICK NOLAN, of New Albany, OH, died May 21, 2019. Dr. Nolan earned his medical degree at Hahnemann University. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and taught at Louisiana State University before practicing obstetrics and gynecology for many years in Huntington Beach, CA. Nolan was survived by his wife of 54 years, Maureen; sons Dennis, Michael, Charles and Philip; and four grandchildren.

ROBERT C. PARKER, of Indiana, PA, died May 15, 2020. Dr. Parker graduated from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve. He was a practicing pediatrician in upstate New York and Morrisville, MN. As the only pediatri-

cian in Morrisville, he focused on providing care to the community. He earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota in 1981 and transitioned to hospital administration, first at Copley Hospital in Morrisville and then the Rutland, VT, Regional Medical Center. In 1994, he moved to Indiana, PA, where he assumed the position of senior vice president for medical affairs at the Indiana Regional Medical Center. As a hospital administrator, he focused on access to quality health care. He was proud of his work to establish facilities in rural areas that lacked care options. He was also interim president and CEO for a period before retiring in 2000. Parker was survived by his wife, Mary; children Lynn, Frank, Seth and Gwen; and nine grandchildren.

HENRY BURTT RICHARDSON, Jr., of Tucson, AZ, died February 26, 2019. He spent a lifetime of serving others and working to improve the lives of children and families around the world. In 1977, he moved to Winthrop, ME, where he and his wife, Gladys, established the Winthrop Family Pediatrics Center. Richardson was survived by his wife, Gladys; son Henry; daughter Katherine; and two grandchildren.

EUGENE J. SEGRE, of Palo Alto, CA, died June 5, 2021. Dr. Segre graduated from Cornell Medical School. He settled in Buffalo where he began his internship in internal medicine at Buffalo General Hospital, followed by a residency at Roswell Park Memorial Institute. In 1962, he joined the Worcester Foundation, a cutting-edge institution in reproductive endocrinology research. He later joined Syntex, which was developing the key ingredients for a birth control pill, where he worked for 26 years, retiring in 1990 as the senior vice president of clinical development. He was responsible for the development and global regulatory approval of Syntex's biggest drug after the pill, Naproxyn, first introduced as a prescription drug in 1976, and sold today over the counter under the Aleve label. He continued to be involved with medicine as an emeritus clinical professor at Stanford University and as a consultant to developing medical companies for the next several decades. Segre was survived by his wife, Patricia Bashaw; three children from his first marriage; nine grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

BRUCE H. SKLAREW, of Washington, DC, died October 26, 2020. Sklarew was a Washington psychiatrist who helped develop a grief-therapy program for families called to identify the remains of relatives. More than 10,000 families have participated in the program. He had a private practice in psychotherapy in Washington for 35 years and taught psychiatry at Howard University for 25 years. He was best known to mental health professionals as a provider and creator of services for troubled communities

and people for whom such help is often unavailable. He graduated from Yale Medical School in 1958, completed two years of residency at Harvard, studied at the National Institute of Mental Health, and took eight years of training at the Baltimore Psychoanalytic Institute. Sklarew was survived by his wife, Margaret Meyers; children Deborah and Eric; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

CARL E. SPEICHER, of Columbus, OH, died November 13, 2019. Dr. Speicher graduated from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1958. He then spent 21 years in the U.S. Air Force, where he earned the rank of colonel, followed by 22 years as head of clinical pathology at Ohio State University, and was named Professor Emeritus. He was survived by his wife, Mary Louise; sons Carl, Gregory, and Erik; and six grandchildren.

CAROLYN W. TERRY, Columbia, MO, died November 25, 2021. Dr. Terry graduated in 1960 from Washington University in St. Louis. She completed her residency in pediatrics at Upstate and worked as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Missouri, retiring in 2012. Terry was survived by her husband, Boyd; children Ann, Kenneth, Martha and Matthew; and four grandchildren.

ALLEN JOHN TOGUT, of Rockville, MD, died November 16, 2019. Dr. Togut graduated from Cornell Medical School in 1960. In 1967, he moved his family to Tokyo, Japan, serving in the U.S. Army as a surgeon during the Vietnam War. He had a long and fulfilling career as a thoracic surgeon practicing in the Greater Boston area, Corning, NY, and Wilkes-Barre, PA. Togut was survived by his son, David; daughter Sharon; and seven grandchildren.

JOHN BURTON WILDER, of Fort Meyers, FL, died August 11, 2021. Dr. Burton completed his residency in surgery at Upstate in 1961. He began his career as a general surgeon in Presque Isle, ME. He later moved to Batavia, NY, where he spent most of his career. Wilder was survived by his brother.

Remembering Two Mentors

I lost my father to cancer when I was 17. This seemed excruciatingly bad timing on his part. I was ready to head off to college, and my dad's death would mean that my mother and younger sister would be left to pick up the pieces of their lives largely on their own. Then there were the unresolved tensions and arguments between my dad and me. He was convinced, for example, that I was wearing the wrong type of T-shirt—I liked the ones with sleeves; he did not. My dad was an avid ball player and a superb athlete. It was many years before I could understand that the T-shirt was just a straw-man—a stand-in for my father's disappointment with my lack of interest—or skill—in sports.

During my undergraduate years at Cornell, I gravitated toward the professors who stepped in to fill the void of my father's death. I was privileged to have master teachers who were also warm and giving, like the renowned literary scholar, M.H. Abrams, PhD. "Mike," as he was called, invited all the students in his seminar to his home for a pasta dinner, and took pains to ensure that I had enough rigatoni on my plate.

In medical school, and then residency—both at SUNY Upstate Medical University—I was blessed to have two mentor-father figures: **Robert W. Daly, '57**, and **Eugene Kaplan, '57**. "Bob" and "Gene" were instrumental in my decision to enter psychiatry, and both men helped sustain my commitment to the field for over 40 years. Bob was something of a Socratic figure to me. His lucid teachings on medical ethics and philosophy always seemed like sunlight streaming into a darkened room. Bob's great teaching during my residency was delivered with his usual puckish sense of humor: "With psychiatry," he quipped, "you can do biology in the morning and theology in the afternoon!" Bob was right—and that dual perspective has shaped my approach to the profession ever since. In his later years, Bob developed into a fine poet.

Gene was the model of the humanistic, psychoanalytically oriented psychiatrist. He became director of the residency program at Upstate in 1969 and served as chair of the psychiatry department from 1985

to 1999. Gene was not a prolific author but was a tremendous teacher and scholar of psychiatry. When I was still a third-year medical student, his eloquent lectures—wise, nuanced, and delivered in Gene's polished, baritone voice—convinced me that psychiatry was the place to be. Gene was also a talented pianist who could expound effortlessly on the difference between a Steinway and a Bechstein.

Bob and Gene were nearly life-long friends, and had interned together at Albert Einstein School of Medicine, in the late 1950s. Both served on the Upstate faculty, in various capacities, for over 50 years. Earlier this month, Bob and Gene passed away within two weeks of each other. I had kept in touch with them over the years, but the COVID-19 pandemic played havoc with face-to-face get-togethers. There was still so much left to say, so much still to take in from my two father-mentors.

The Italian writer Umberto Eco once observed that, "...what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom." Much of what I learned from Bob and Gene came by way of their warmth and kindness, as much as from their formal teaching. This was true of my own father, too, notwithstanding our arguments over T-shirts. Now, in the wake of these paternal deaths, remote and recent, I find myself triply orphaned. And yet, some part of these men still resides in me, having shaped who I have been, and shaping what I will yet become.

—Ronald Pies, MD '78

Dr. Pies is professor emeritus of psychiatry and lecturer on bioethics and humanities, SUNY Upstate Medical University; clinical professor of psychiatry, Tufts University School of Medicine; and the author of several books. This article is reprinted with permission from Psychiatric Times.

Deeply Remembered

The Winter 2021 issue of the *Upstate Medical Alumni Journal* included an obituary for Dr. Arnold Moses. His long tenure at Upstate and many academic and scientific achievements in endocrinology, and in particular the neurohypophysis, are outlined in detail. His patient care and fostering inspiration for medical students are described. All of these are well deserved.

I knew him as a teacher, a mentor, and finally as a colleague. My contact with the Endocrine Service began in summer of 1960, when I had a rewarding student fellowship with the newly developed endocrine group headed by Drs. (David) Streeten and Moses. After completing my senior year, I chose a mixed medicine-surgery internship at Upstate (1961-1962). On Friday afternoons, the various medical specialties had follow-up outpatient clinics. After patient visits were completed, each group had informal educational gatherings, which were available for me to attend. I walked into the room occupied by the endocrine group and both Dr. Moses and Dr. Streeten greeted me. It was like coming home and I attended the endocrine sessions for the rest of the month.

In February 1962, I met with Dr. Streeten, who welcomed my interest in endocrinology but first I needed to see Dr. Lyons, chairman of medicine, and get his acceptance. It turned out that the Endocrine Service was just awarded NIH funding for two endocrine fellows. After spending seven years at the Upstate Medical Center, I then finished training at the University of Utah, followed by seven years at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1977, I joined the faculty at the University of South Carolina to help start up a new medical school and retired after 31 years. Over the years I met Drs. Streeten and Moses at national meetings. We always had cordial and informative discussions. They are both gone but I remain thankful to both of them for their friendship, instruction, guidance, and support. They were gifted in so many ways.

Howard Nankin, MD '61
Columbia, SC

Regarding the passing of Geno Andreatta, reported in our Spring 2022 issue:

I was saddened by the In Memoriam notice of the death of Dean Geno Andreatta. During my time at Upstate, he was always a very positive and encouraging presence in our lives and our educational experience. He will be missed.

Noah Finkel, MD '69
Huntington, NY

He was a gentleman and a credit to the medical center. I was glad to have known him.

Diane C. LoRusso, MD '69
Rye, NY

Aside from my father, Geno was the most influential male figure in my life.

Lowell L. Hart, MD '80
Fort Myers, FL

May he rest in peace and take pleasure from the good acts we do in his honor.

Susan Jensen, MD '83
Fort Mill, SC

Without Geno Andreatta's help, I would have never gotten into medical school. He continued to support and encourage me throughout my time at Upstate. I thought the world of him.

Molly A. Brewer, MD '91
Avon, CT

We have wonderful memories of Dean Andreatta. Our thoughts are with his family.

Barbara S. Edelheit, MD '96
David S. Edelheit, MD '98
Glastonbury, CT

He was an administrator who had an eye on the past and a foot in the future. He became a friend to everyone he interacted with, and I consider myself one of those lucky people. His retirement from Upstate in 1995 left a void that has never been filled.

Ira H. Ames, PhD
Fayetteville, NY

Geno was a wonderful man. My son, Peter Richman, MD '93, and my deceased husband, Robert Richman, MD '67, former professor of pediatric endocrine at Upstate, both thought very highly of him, as did I.

Donnie Richman
Fayetteville, NY

It is hard to put into words how much I appreciated how significant his impact was on my education at Upstate. Through those difficult and demanding years, he was available as a dependable guide and emotional support. What a thoughtful, supportive and kind man! His steady encouragement made my professional and personal success possible. I will forever be grateful.

Lee Rosenbaum, MD '73
Brookline, MA

Your Opinion Counts!

The *Upstate Alumni Journal* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters relating to magazine content can be submitted online at medalumni.upstate.edu/editor, emailed to medalum@upstate.edu with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line, or mailed to Upstate Alumni Journal, Setnor Academic Building #1510, 750 E. Adams St., Syracuse, New York 13210-9976. Letters must be signed and are subject to editing for space and style.



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