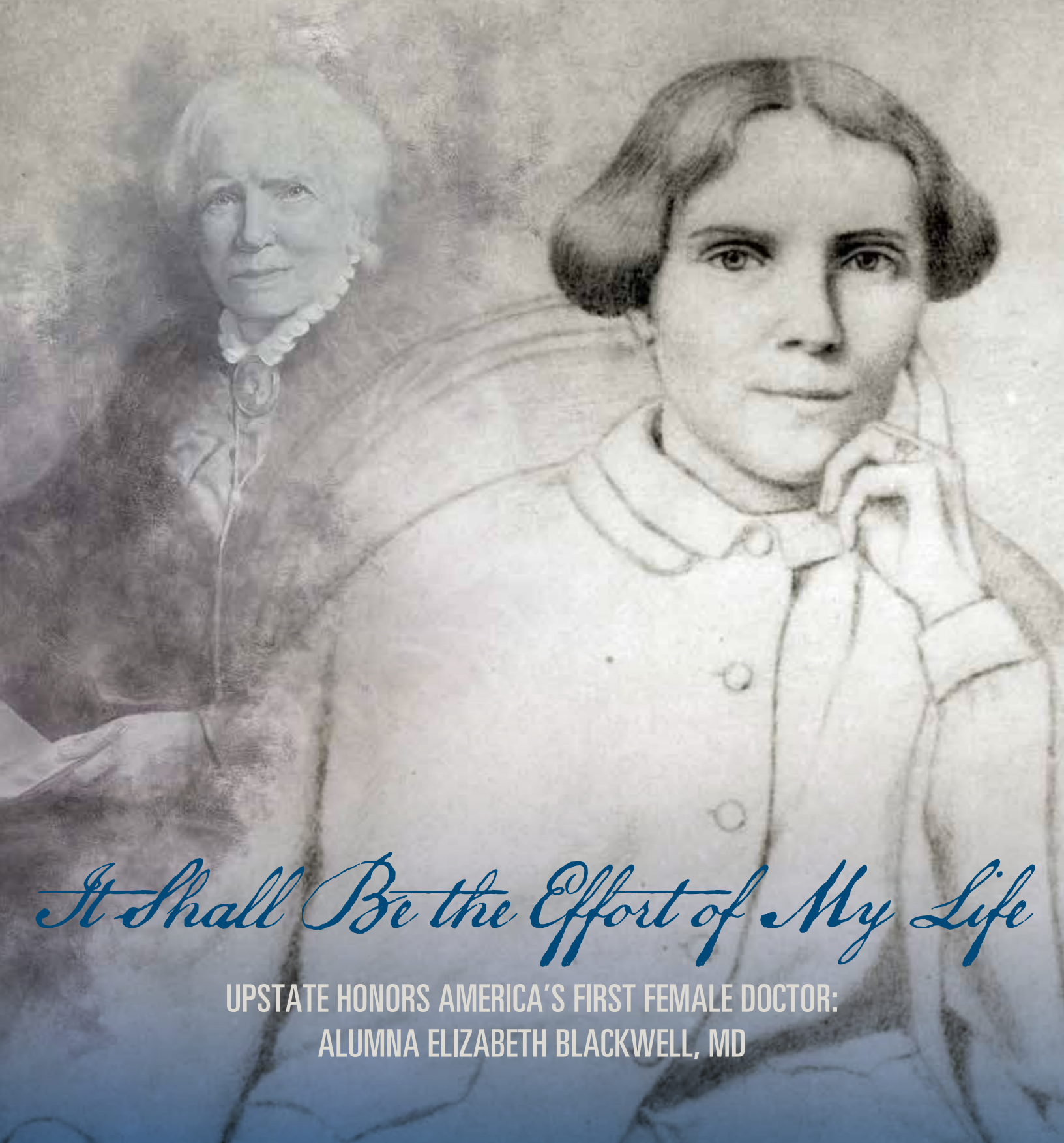


UPSTATE MEDICAL Alumni JOURNAL

SPRING 2021 PUBLISHED BY UPSTATE MEDICAL ALUMNI FOUNDATION



It Shall Be the Effort of My Life

UPSTATE HONORS AMERICA'S FIRST FEMALE DOCTOR:
ALUMNA ELIZABETH BLACKWELL, MD



Features

8 Celebrating Elizabeth Blackwell, MD

Upstate marks Elizabeth Blackwell's 200th year with a campaign to commemorate her legacy.

14 A Force Multiplier

President Mantosh Dewan has elevated Upstate Medical University by inspiring and supporting its greatest asset: Its people.

Departments

- 2 COURTYARD
- 20 STUDENT ROUNDS
- 22 CLASS NOTES
- 34 IN MEMORIAM

MEDICAL ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert A. Dracker, MD '82

President

Larry S. Charlamb, MD '88

Vice President

Barbara A. Morisseau, MD '98

Treasurer

Thomas A. Bersani, MD '82

Secretary

Richard M. Cantor, MD '76

Barbara Jones

Connor, MD '82

Dennis D. Daly, MD '83

Mantosh Dewan, MD

Richard W. Doust

Mark S. Erlebacher, MD '79

Brian J. Gaffney, MD '72

Diane F. Green-el, MD '78

Douglas W. Halliday, MD '79

Ruth H. Hart, MD '80

Robert H. Hill, III, MD '06

Danielle A. Katz, MD '97

Bruce M. Leslie, MD '78

Barbara Clayton Lutz, MD '92

Kirsten P. Magowan, MD '87

Mark S. Persky, MD '72

Amy L. Reynders, MD '01

Charles J. Ryan III, MD '82

K. Bruce Simmons, MD '79

George L. Stanley, Jr., MD '94

Ralph L. Stevens, MD '81

James A. Terzian, MD '75

EMERITUS

A. Geno Andreatta

Frederick R. Davey, MD '64

Karen K. Heitzman, MD '83

Patricia J. Numann, MD '65

Michael H. Ratner, MD '68

Gregory A. Threatte, MD '73

Jack Yoffa, MD '69

EX-OFFICIO

Lawrence Chin, MD

Christopher Morley, PhD,

MA, CAS

Paul Norcross

Julie White, PhD

HONORARY

Sadri Garakani

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES

Amanda Balch '21

Divaker Lal '21

Binghamton

Moje Omoruan '22

Tyler Fuller '22

Binghamton

Barnes Werner '23

Gavrielle Rood '24

UPSTATE MEDICAL Alumni JOURNAL

SPRING 2021 ISSUE

Published three times in

2021 in spring, autumn,

and winter. Copyright

©2021 by Upstate

Medical Alumni Foundation.

Opinions expressed are those

of the individual authors

and subjects and do not

necessarily reflect

the views of the Alumni

Foundation or Upstate

Medical University.

Published by the

Upstate Medical Alumni

Foundation of Upstate

Medical University, Setnor

Academic Building #1510,

750 E. Adams St., Syracuse,

New York 13210-9976

Issue Number: 82

Submissions and

address corrections

should be sent to Paul

Norcross, SUNY Upstate

Medical University, Setnor

Academic Building #1510,

750 E. Adams St., Syracuse,

New York 13210-9976

Phone: 315/464-4361

Fax: 315/464-4360

Email: [norcross@](mailto:norcross@upstate.edu)

[upstate.edu](mailto:norcross@upstate.edu)

Paul Norcross

Executive Editor

Renée Gearhart Levy

Managing Editor

Sarah Burns

Ellen Edgerton

Lori Murphy

Chere Raven

Contributing Editors

Kiefer Creative

Design and Production

Emily Davenport

Contributing Writer

Kathleen Froio

William Mueller

Debbie Rexine

Rich Whelsky

Photographers

Michael H. Ratner,

MD '68, *chair*

Thomas Bersani, MD '82

Fred Davey, MD '64

Diane Green-el, MD '78

Ruth Hart, MD '80

James Terzian, MD '75

Editorial Board

JUST A CLICK AWAY

Visit the Medical Alumni

web page at [medalumni.](http://medalumni.upstate.edu)

[upstate.edu](http://medalumni.upstate.edu) for special

event information, past

Alumni Journals, giving

opportunities, and more.

Follow us on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/UpstateMedicalAlumni)

[UpstateMedicalAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/UpstateMedicalAlumni)

Correction: The

Winter 2020 *Alumni*

Journal was misnumbered

as issue number 82, when

in fact, it was issue number

81. This is issue number 82.

Medical Alumni Foundation

UPSTATE
 MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
 COLLEGE OF MEDICINE


Dear Alumni and Colleagues,

To say this past year has been unprecedented would be the understatement of the century. Despite changes in our personal and professional lives, the alumni of our medical school have persevered in their support and enthusiasm for our students and fellow future physicians. At a time when many academic institutions have suffered both financially and philosophically, we have witnessed innovation, leadership, and untiring care from the Upstate Medical University and its reinvigorated leadership. It can be said that with creative intent, we have witnessed collaboration, partnership, and support, despite societal distancing. Our students have learned to grow academically and professionally regardless

of hardships. Dr. Robert Corona, the CEO of University Hospital, has continued to achieve greatness for the institution, recognized both as a Magnet Institution for Nursing and as one of the top 100 businesses to work for. Our Dean, Dr. Larry Chin, continues to demonstrate his innovative approach to the school curriculum and is recognized by the students for his professional excellence and his nurturing nature. Finally, our President, Dr. Mantosh Dewan, is admired by many for his patience, consideration, and gentle yet wise leadership, qualities rare but essential in successful stewards of any organization. Please read on in this issue to learn more about Upstate's achievements.

More than at any time in my association with Upstate Medical University, I feel the institution is on the edge of greatness and will advance in its academic recognition at a pace not seen before. Throughout this past year, the Medical Alumni Foundation—with your help—has responded to the changing needs of our medical students. It is because of your support that Student Services has been able to help so many students in need of assistance. Please know that your support of the Medical Alumni Foundation is greatly appreciated, and I am hopeful that you will continue to be a part of our developing legacy. I thank you for your support and caring on behalf of OUR institution.

Sincerely,
 Bob Dracker, MD '82
 President
 Medical Alumni Foundation
 Board of Directors

Upstate Medical University named to Forbes' Best Large Employers List

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY has been named to Forbes' Best Large Employers 2021 List. Upstate is ranked No. 35 on the list overall, above others in the education industry category including Cornell, Harvard, and Johns Hopkins universities.

Twenty-five colleges and universities are on this year's list, which includes more than two dozen industry sectors, such as construction, engineering, manufacturing and more.

"All of Upstate Medical University should be proud to be included on this list from Forbes," says Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79. "If you work here, you know what an incredible place it can be with smart, compassionate colleagues who care deeply about this

community and each other," he says. "As the largest employer in the region, we take our responsibility very seriously and we are humbled to be listed among such outstanding employers across the country."

Forbes compiles its annual list based on an independent survey from more than 50,000 U.S. employees working for companies employing at least 1,000 people in their U.S. operations. The evaluation asked employees to rate their willingness to recommend their employers to friends and family as well as evaluate other employers in their respective industries. Employees were also asked to give their opinions on work-related topics such as working conditions, salary, potential for development and company image.

SUNY Announces Initiative to Enroll EOP Students in Medical Schools

SUNY has created the first statewide initiative to help more Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students enroll in SUNY's medical universities. The Pre-Medical Scholars Pipeline Program was introduced by SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras at a press conference held at the Upstate College of Medicine in February.

The program falls under the chancellor's SUNY For All Initiative.

SUNY EOP helps New York state's disadvantaged students from underserved communities gain access and succeed in undergraduate programs. The new SUNY initiative seeks to strengthen the preparedness of SUNY EOP students for medical education and build an effective pipeline to SUNY medical schools. The program will prepare students for success in their undergraduate programs, medical school and the medical profession through academic support, mentorship, clinical exposure, assistance with MCAT preparation, academic coaching and workshops.

The new program is set to begin in summer 2021 with 25 students, which could be expanded based on initial results and further funding. To be considered for the program, candidates must be a SUNY EOP sophomore or junior on a pre-medical track, have a grade point average of 3.2 or higher, and have

successfully completed two semesters of general chemistry and two semesters of biology.

"The new SUNY for All Pre-Medical Scholars Pipeline Program will be a deliberate and well-executed mechanism to increase much-needed diversity in our medical school and across the state," says Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79. "This program will allow more young men and women from a wider variety of backgrounds pursue their dreams of becoming a doctor."

The new medical pathway program is being established at Upstate, University at Buffalo, Downstate Health Sciences University, and Stony Brook University. This program builds upon the successes of Stony Brook Medicine's Pre-Medical Access to Clinical Experience (PACE) program, which is a pipeline program that enhances the entry of underrepresented minorities into medicine and monitors their success.

SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras announces the Pre-Medical Scholars Pipeline Program at a news conference held at Upstate.



Students Hold Successful Health Justice Conference

More than 850 people participated in Upstate's student-led Health Justice Conference 2021 on January 16. The theme for this year's conference was "The Time Is Now: Action for Health Equity," and was organized by Samantha Williams '23, Isabelle Thenor-Louis '25, and Angelina Ellis '25.

The co-chairs say the theme was selected to address an array of issues, ranging from how the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted unequal outcomes in health care to raising awareness of inequitable treatment by the criminal legal system.

They started with the single concept that "Racism is a public health issue," says Ellis. "This statement led us to start thinking about the many ways that different '-isms' impact how minority groups access health and healthcare," Ellis said. She noted that Black Americans have historically been mistreated by the medical system and several other systems in America. "It wasn't just the Tuskegee experiment, it is a lot deeper than that," she says.

For the first time, the conference was held via Zoom, an additional challenge for organizers, who had to learn the intricacies of Zoom hosting, including making sure that all presentations had live captioning available, screen reader accessible images, and sign-language interpreters in all large group sessions.

But it also provided opportunities. "Going virtual allowed us to reach out to programs and organizations from across the globe," says Williams. "I personally reached out to 200 colleges, high schools, and organizational programs. From this outreach, we were also able to yield several quality applicants for our high school and undergraduate scholarships and to provide \$500 scholarships for three students who



Isabelle Thenor-Louis



Samantha Williams



Angelina Ellis

"Racism is a public health issue. This statement led us to start thinking about the many ways that different '-isms' impact how minority groups access health and healthcare. . . . It wasn't just the Tuskegee experiment, it is a lot deeper than that."

— Angelina Ellis '25

are dedicated to addressing health inequities."

The virtual conference also eliminated the need for speakers to travel to campus, allowing for greater outside participation. Ellis and Thenor-Louis said those they contacted to speak were generous with their time and flexible with their limited budget as a student-

led organization. "They were very accommodating and supported our vision as three Black women creating a space to discuss the things that are often not addressed in medical education," says Ellis.

The keynote address, "Mobilizing for Health Equity," was presented by Uche Blackstock, MD, founder and CEO of Advancing Health Equity, which partners with healthcare and healthcare-related organizations to address the critical factors contributing to health inequity, through talks, workshops, and consulting services. She was formerly an associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and the faculty director for Recruitment, Retention and Inclusion in the Office of Diversity Affairs at New York University School of Medicine.

One speaker, Robin Wilson-Beattie, was grateful to the organizers for the opportunity to present on "Disability and Ableism in Sexual Health," says Thenor-Louis. "It was a decade-long dream of hers to speak in the medical space."

Alumnus David Ansell, MD '78, senior vice president for Community Health Equity at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, spoke on "The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills," based on his experiences working at Chicago's largest public hospital.



Sherard 'Scott' Tatum, MD

Sherard 'Scott' Tatum, MD, Named Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery

Sherard 'Scott' Tatum, MD, was appointed chair of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Tatum had served as interim chair of the department since April 2018.

"I'm grateful to have Dr. Tatum continue his service as chair to this important clinical department," says Lawrence Chin, MD, dean of the College of Medicine. "He is an exceptional physician, researcher, and campus leader; Upstate will continue to benefit by his valuable and dedicated service."

Tatum has been a member of the Upstate faculty for nearly 30 years, serving on numerous committees including the Trauma Committee, Medical Student Advisor

Program, and as a scientific reviewer for the Institutional Review Board.

He is a sought-after presenter on craniofacial disorders and surgery, speaking regularly at annual meetings of American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. He has published widely in the *Clinics of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* and *JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery*, among others.

Tatum is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, the American Cleft Palate—Craniofacial Association, and the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive

Surgery. He has been included on many top doctor lists through the years, including Best Doctors in America, America's Best Physicians, America's Top Plastic Surgeons, among others.

Tatum earned his medical degree from the University of South Florida and did postgraduate training in general surgery and otolaryngology at Eastern Virginia Medical School; craniomaxillofacial surgery at University of Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany; and facial plastic and reconstructive surgery at University of California-Davis Medical Center.



Margaret Maimone, PhD

Margaret Maimone, PhD, Named Interim Chair of Cell and Developmental Biology

MARGARET M. MAIMONE, PHD, who has been on the faculty of Upstate Medical University for nearly 30 years, has been named interim chair of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. She succeeds Joseph Sanger, PhD, who has stepped down as chair but remains on the faculty of the department.

"I want to thank Dr. Sanger for his service to Upstate as chair of this important basic science department and look forward to his continued service on our faculty," says College of Medicine Dean Lawrence Chin, MD. "And I am grateful that Dr. Maimone will continue to lead this department forward in her role as interim chair. Dr. Maimone's work in research, teaching, advising and administration provides her with a firm foundation to move this department forward."

Dr. Maimone joined the Upstate faculty in 1993 and has been involved over the last 15 years in teaching, advising, and administration. She has held leadership positions in these areas, including as a course director in the College of Health Professions and College of Medicine, and as assistant dean of student affairs for College of Medicine advising.

Maimone is a recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and is a Gold Standard Award winner for her passion, commitment, excellence and integrity in service to Upstate. She is also a founding member of the Academy of Upstate Educators.

Maimone earned a PhD in biochemistry and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular biology from the Washington University School of Medicine.



Henry Roane, PhD

“One of the things that will be really important is the integration across providers,” Roane says. “Having your doctors all co-located is a nice thing for families.”

— Henry Roane, PhD

Henry Roane, PhD, Named Executive Director of New Golisano Center for Special Needs

UPSTATE GOLISANO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL has named Henry Roane, PhD, a professor of pediatrics and division chief of the Center for Development, Behavior and Genetics at Upstate as executive director for the new Golisano Center for Special Needs, which opened in February.

The center provides comprehensive, coordinated, and scientifically based medical and behavioral care for children and adolescents with many types of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“Dr. Roane will be an outstanding director of the Golisano Center for Special Needs and I was honored to be able to appoint him to that position,” says Gregory Connors, MD, executive director of the children’s hospital. “Dr. Roane has been advocating at Upstate for additional and more streamlined services for children and families for many years.”

Dr. Roane has been involved in nearly every aspect of planning for the new center, which is located on the third floor of Madison–Irving Medical Center. “Developing this centralized program and growing these clinical models will

allow us to see more kids, more quickly and that will be better for the community,” he says.

The center will continue to serve a 22-county area in New York state and will expand existing services such as the Inclusive Fitness and Adaptive Design Program and the Family Behavior Analysis Program. “One of the things that will be really important is the integration across providers,” Roane says. “Having your doctors all co-located is a nice thing for families.”

Roane has worked at Upstate since 2009. In addition to serving as division chief of Development, Behavior and Genetics in the Department of Pediatrics, he also serves as the chair of the Behavior Analysis Studies program in the College of Health Professions. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Louisiana State University as well as a doctorate in psychology. He previously worked at The Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta, the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, and the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders in Omaha, Nebraska.



Sriram S. Narsipur, MD, named Edward C. Reifenstein Professor of Medicine

SRIRAM S. NARSIPUR, MD, was appointed the Edward C. Reifenstein Professor of Medicine.

"It's a pleasure to bestow Dr. Narsipur with this honor, especially following his appointment earlier this year as chair of the Department of Medicine," says College of Medicine Dean Lawrence Chin, MD. "Both are testimony to his great leadership here at Upstate."

Dr. Narsipur joined Upstate in 1996, and in addition to being chair of Medicine, he serves as a professor of medicine, pediatrics and surgery; chief of nephrology; and medical director of University Dialysis Center. His key area of research is cardiovascular disease in patients with chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal failure.

The professorship is named for Dr. Edward Reifenstein, the medical advisor and close friend of Horace White, the 37th governor of New York state. White left a quarter of his estate to Syracuse University's College of Medicine in honor of Reifenstein, "who has devoted many years of faithful, distinguished, gratuitous service to said college of Medicine." The college, of course, later transferred to SUNY.

Narsipur earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, and completed his residency at Baystate Medical Center, Tufts School of Medicine, where he served as chief resident in pediatrics. He completed a fellowship in Nephrology/Hypertension at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine.

He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Society of Nephrology, and a member of the Royal College of Physicians.



IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE FAMILY? Sri Narsipur, MD, professor and chair of medicine and medical director of nephrology, received his second COVID-19 vaccine dose from Sonia Narsipur—his daughter. Sonia is a fourth-year Upstate medical student and is interested in family medicine. Sonia comes from a family of doctors. Her mom—Sonia Y. Kragh, MD—is an internist.

Housecalls for the Homeless Program Receives Bank of America Grant

Upstate Medical University's street medicine program, Housecalls for the Homeless, received a \$30,000 grant from Bank of America to fund point-of-care equipment, medicine, coronavirus supplies, eyeglasses, dentures, and personal care items vital for the care of homeless individuals in Onondaga County.

Pioneered by David Lehmann, MD, and Mia Ruiz-Salvador in 2018, Housecalls for the Homeless provides medical, psychiatric, and addiction care services for men and

women experiencing homelessness in Syracuse and Onondaga County. The program provides basic medical and preventive care to those sheltering at the Rescue Mission, Catholic Charities Men's Shelter, Salvation Army Women's Shelter, and through In My Father's Kitchen, a mobile program providing food and basic necessities for individuals living outdoors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an increased need for medical supplies to stop the coronavirus spread in shelters and on the streets. "Bank of America's funding

helps continue necessary work in the community, especially as the health crisis created an increase of needs, services, and precautionary measures at the shelters we serve," says Dr. Lehmann. "We're grateful for Bank of America's contribution, which will help us continue our mission."



Stephen J. Thomas, MD, is lead principal investigator for Pfizer's global Phase 3 trial of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Stephen J. Thomas, MD, Co-Authors *New England Journal of Medicine* Paper on Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine

UPSTATE CHIEF OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE Stephen J. Thomas, MD, is co-author of a paper published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in December 2020 about the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech. Thomas is the coordinating principal investigator for the world-wide Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine trial.

The paper, "Safety and Efficacy of the BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine," is authored by 12 doctors and medical experts from around the world. Thomas says the study's publication is an important step to ensure transparent and objective review of the vaccine's performance. *The New England Journal of Medicine* is among the most prestigious medical journals in the world.

"Publication is another level of external peer review," Thomas says. "The people who are going to be administering this vaccine consume information in the medical literature. They read the press release from the company, but they rely on the

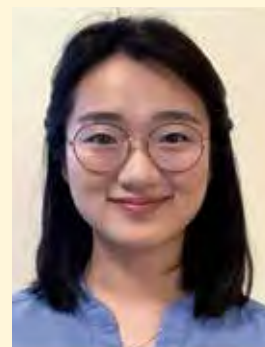
medical literature to make medical decisions. The reviewers are external to the company and the project. If a vaccine is going to start rolling out any time soon it is absolutely in the best interest of everybody for these companies to publish their data."

The paper cites the specifics of the vaccine's clinical trials, which took place at 152 sites around the world. The trial involved 43,448 participants who received injections—21,720 with the vaccine and 21,728 with the placebo. The vaccine, BNT162b2 "was 95 percent effective in preventing COVID-19. Among 10 cases of severe COVID-19 with onset after the first dose, 9 occurred in placebo recipients and 1 in a BNT162b2 recipient.

"The safety profile of BNT162b2 was characterized by short-term, mild-to-moderate pain at the injection site, fatigue, and headache. The incidence of serious adverse events was low and was similar in the vaccine and placebo groups."

Eunice Choe '23 Elected Medical Society of the State of New York Student Delegate

Eunice Choe, a second-year medical student at Upstate Medical University, has been elected as a 2021 medical student delegate for the Medical Society of the State of New York. Choe is one of seven students elected to a post at the fall meeting and the first in six years from Upstate to serve as delegate.



Eunice Choe

Choe, a native of Plattsburgh, New York, serves as president of Upstate's student chapter of the American Medical Association/Medical Society of the State of New York. In her student leadership role at Upstate, Choe is eager for students to be well-equipped to advocate for their patients and practices in the future.

"I'm honored to represent the Medical Student Section at the 2021 MSSNY House of Delegates," Choe says. "In this role, I hope to learn how organized medicine works at the state level. That knowledge will inform how my classmates and I write healthcare resolutions and prepare students to be active in future medical societies. It is a privilege to learn how physician leaders and medical students work together to address the health concerns of our state."

Choe is also active in the Rural Medical Scholars Program, the Christian Medical Fellowship and participates in volunteer activities with the Upstate's Center for Civic Engagement. Prior to attending medical school, she served with AmeriCorps VISTA and worked to secure more than \$700,000 for grants to develop various programs for a rural behavioral health program. She earned her undergraduate degree from Brandeis University in 2017.

Celebrating Eliza

On the occasion of her bicentenary, Upstate Medical University has launched a campaign to honor the legacy of one of its most famous graduates: America's first female doctor.

The first woman in America to receive a medical degree, Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, was born on February 3rd, 1821.

She graduated first in her class in 1849 from Geneva Medical College, which is the predecessor of what is known today as Upstate Medical University. In 2021, Upstate is commemorating Dr. Blackwell's 200th birthday with a series of events and the launch of the Elizabeth Blackwell 200th

Anniversary Legacy Campaign. The fundraising effort is intended to build upon Upstate's efforts to celebrate her life and contributions and will support the commissioning of a sculpture of Blackwell for the University grounds and the establishment of an Elizabeth Blackwell Scholarship for medical students.

"Today, more than half the students at American medical schools, including Upstate, are women. That is due at least in part to the bravery and intellect of Elizabeth Blackwell, who opened the door for women in the medical profession. We are proud to have her among our alumni ranks," says Paul Norcross, executive director of the Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation. "This fundraising effort



Second-year medical students Sruti Akula and Neelima Dosakayala celebrate Blackwell's 200th birthday (photo taken pre-COVID).

celebrates the 200th anniversary of her birth as a platform to honor an American icon and support future students who share her passion."

To categorize Blackwell as a trailblazer is an understatement. In the 1840s, the idea of a woman pursuing medicine was unthinkable. Nonetheless, it wasn't until 1964 that Upstate first began recognizing its pioneering female physician. Patricia Numann, MD '65, one of 15 female students in the entire College of Medicine at the time, was among a group of female students, faculty, and alumni who conceived of the idea to honor Blackwell. "We raised \$500 for Joe Kozlowski to paint her portrait, which was more than a semester's tuition in those days," she says.

At the portrait unveiling, Upstate President Carlyle Jacobsen, PhD, surprised attendees with the announcement of a campus street to be named after Blackwell. Construction of Elizabeth Blackwell Street—located across from the hospital entrance and between East Adams and Harrison streets in Syracuse—was part of the site planning for the downtown hospital, which now runs between the hospital parking garage on one side, and Jacobsen Hall, the Campus Activities Building, and Health Services on the other.

The College also started a lecture series in Blackwell's name, held every February. Mary Voorhees, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, gave the first Elizabeth Blackwell Day Lecture back in 1964.

This year, due to the pandemic, the Blackwell Lecture has been postponed to September. In February, Upstate sponsored an interview on its award-winning radio show Health-Link on Air with Janice Nimura, author of *The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine*. The widely-heralded book, published in January, tells the unlikely story of Elizabeth Blackwell and her younger

Elizabeth Blackwell

sister Emily, who both became pioneering female physicians.

In the interview, Nimura said she spent five years writing the book, which included a research visit to Geneva, New York, to walk the streets and view the buildings that Elizabeth did while in medical school.

According to Nimura, Elizabeth was largely imprinted by her upbringing. Born in Bristol, England, she and her nine siblings came to the United States with their parents as children, settling in the frontier town of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her father was an abolitionist and sugar refiner, whose life's goal was to make sugar from sugar beets without slave labor. Unfortunately, he died shortly after their arrival, leaving his large family struggling to make a living. His five daughters received a clear message: having a husband was no guarantee of security. None of the five Blackwell sisters ever married and two of the Blackwell sons married prominent feminists of the day, Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown.

All nine children received the same education, a combination of schools and tutors that Nimura describes as “patchwork but passionate.



Daguerreotype portrait of Elizabeth Blackwell



The first building of Geneva Medical College, the Middle Building, stands between Geneva Hall on the right and Trinity Hall on the left.

COURTESY OF SCHLESINGER LIBRARY ON THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN AMERICA, RADCLIFFE INSTITUTE

I don't think any of them spent much time sitting in classrooms, but they all read avidly and discussed what they read. Education and intellectual pursuit were of paramount importance,” she says.

As a young person, Elizabeth became interested in the writings of Margaret Fuller, a journalist and women's rights advocate who wrote *Woman in the 19th Century*. Fuller argued that “women could do anything that men did, it was just a matter of talent and toil, not gender,” says Nimura. “Elizabeth had a healthy self-esteem and saw herself as someone who could embody this idea—find a way to prove that women could do anything men could do—and medicine turned out to be the path she chose as sort of a graphic way of making this point, not necessarily to be a healer or because she was passionate about biology.”

For the time, it was a profoundly eccentric choice. Medical schools in the United States did not admit women. After being rejected by 29 medical schools, Blackwell was accepted by Geneva Medical College, but only because the faculty put it up to a student vote, and as a practical joke, the 150 male students unanimously voted to admit her to their ranks. No one thought it was a joke when

FROM ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

she graduated at the top of her class and the dean bowed to her at graduation.

But earning her medical degree was easy compared with what came next. Not only would no one hire her, but when she started her own practice, Blackwell struggled to gain patients. Women wealthy enough to choose their own doctors did not trust a female physician. Together with her younger sister Emily, who she had encouraged to pursue medicine five years after her, Blackwell founded the New York Infirmity for Indigent Women and Children. The clinic, which also served as a nurse's training facility, was funded by "charitable donations from wealthy people who liked the idea of a woman doctor serving the poor, but didn't necessarily want to be consulting one themselves," says Nimura. Later, the sisters started their own medical school, the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmity, to provide women with access to the best medical education available. By the end of the 19th century, new medical schools such as Cornell and Johns Hopkins were admitting women and the College closed in 1899.

In 1869, Blackwell returned to England, where she worked with Florence Nightingale and four others to establish the first medical school

for women in England, the London School of Medicine for Women. By the time Blackwell died in 1910, there were around 9,000 female physicians in the United States, many of whom studied at the

Women's College for Medicine or trained at the New York Infirmity for Women.

With her book climbing bestseller lists, Nimura says the interest in



COURTESY OF THE MECHANICAL CURATOR COLLECTION, BRITISH LIBRARY

Blackwell's story owes partly to timing. "With the inauguration of our first female vice president, I think it's the right moment for redefining a heroine in our imaginations," she says.

For the Upstate community today, Blackwell represents the institution's mission to improve health through education, biomedical research and patient care and its core values, including innovation, respect, diversity and inclusion. "Elizabeth Blackwell is the most recognized woman physician in the world. As her alma mater, I believe that she should be visible daily and honored with the best tributes we have to offer," says Dr. Numann.

The centerpiece of that effort is to establish an Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, Scholarship, which will be used to support students who share Blackwell's resilience, passion, and service to the indigent and to population health. According to Norcross, the goal is to raise enough funds to create an endowment that will fund a full annual scholarship. "Elizabeth Blackwell is a major figure in medical history. As her alma mater, we want the scholarship in her name to be appropriate to her stature," he says.

And in an effort to honor Blackwell in a public way, Upstate has commissioned sculptor Sharon BuMann to create a life-size bronze sculpture of Blackwell as a 26-year-old medical student for the Weiskotten Courtyard. A native Central New Yorker, BuMann has previously created well-known public sculptures of surgeon and women's rights

advocate Mary Edwards Walker, MD, blues musician Libba Cotton, and the Syracuse Jerry Rescue Memorial.

"The statue will be seen by anyone entering Weiskotten Hall, and hopefully, will be the first in a sculpture garden with other

note-worthy alumni," says Numann.

The Legacy Fund also supported the creation of a commemorative exhibit on Elizabeth Blackwell, sponsored by the Health Science Library and curated by Cara Howe, assistant director of archives and special collections (see companion story).

As a counterpoint to her interview with Janice Nimura about Elizabeth Blackwell, HealthLink on Air host Amber Smith also interviewed current students Sruti Akula '23 and Neelima Dosakayala '23, who have been involved with activities surrounding the 200th birthday commemoration, about their experiences as female medical students today.

"If I could speak to her today, I would definitely thank her," says Akula. "As a female in the field, I'm fortunate not to really feel any difference from my male colleagues."

"Not only was she a pioneer in being the first, but she set a foundation for other women to follow," adds Dosakayala. "In addition to fighting for women, she also fought against racial inequity. I thank her for starting the work and I'm proud to be able to continue it." ■

To contribute to the Elizabeth Blackwell Legacy Campaign, please contact Paul Norcross at norcrossp@upstate.edu or visit <https://medalumni.upstate.edu/elizabeth-blackwell>.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

"It Shall Be the Effort of My Life"

The Work and Words of Elizabeth Blackwell, MD

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Blackwell, the Health Sciences Library Archives and Special Collections has launched an exhibit focusing on her life and legacy—the triumphs, challenges, and sacrifices made by this pioneer in the history of medicine.

According to Cara Howe, assistant director, archives and special collections, the exhibit was assembled from Upstate's own small collection, as well as research conducted at the Library of Congress and the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University, which both have large repositories of Blackwell family papers. She also drew heavily from Blackwell's autobiography, *Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women*.

"I really wanted to include her own words for this exhibit," says Howe. "Many of the secondary resources tend to all quote the same content from her, the same quotes repeated. I wanted to spend some time with Dr. Blackwell's words and her memoir was a really wonderful source."

Howe believes Blackwell's legacy to the institution cannot be overstated. "To claim the first woman doctor as an alumna of our institution really helps set the stage for current diversity and inclusion initiatives," she says. "It demonstrates a strong commitment to that that reaches back to the earliest years."

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE EXHIBIT:

Steady, Uphill Work

Previously a student of the metaphysical, Elizabeth needed to discover if she could overcome the repulsion she felt for the corporeal nature of medicine. Her first exposure to anatomical studies was shepherded by a Dr. Allen who, knowing of her aversion, helped her to see the artistry of the body, igniting a newfound appreciation for the aesthetics of the subject. With this initial hurdle surmounted, Elizabeth sent letters of inquiry to medical schools in Philadelphia and New York. Invariably, she received rejections with repeating themes; either women were not physically able to withstand the rigors the education and training required, or it was considered immoral for them to have intimate knowledge of the body. Most especially, the idea of a woman receiving anatomical training along-side men was unconscionable.

When her letter of acceptance finally came, from a small school in Upstate New York, she had no idea that her admittance was actually the product of a practical joke. The faculty of Geneva College of Medicine, not wanting to refuse her entrance outright, had put the question of her



Diploma awarded to Elizabeth Blackwell, MD. Geneva College of Medicine.

COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

admittance to the student body, assuming the young men would balk at the idea of studying along-side a woman. The students, assuming the application could only be a hoax, unanimously voted to admit Elizabeth.

To their surprise, the product of their joke arrived in November 1847 to begin her studies. Though the citizens of Geneva gave her a wide berth and suspicious stares, she found her classmates to be ultimately accepting of her presence and respectful of her person. Her self-contained demeanor and commitment to her studies soon won the respect of the faculty. When one of her greatest supporters, Dr. James Webster, tried to dissuade her from attending anatomy lectures with the rest of the class, she sent a letter that was roundly applauded by the group and cemented her presence in the front-row for all demonstrations. When she graduated at the top of her class on January 23, 1849, the valedictory address, delivered by Dean Charles Lee, exalted Elizabeth as a novelty. Despite proof that a woman could fulfill the requirements of a medical course of study, even those who witnessed it first-hand were not prepared to agree that it was anything more than a fluke.

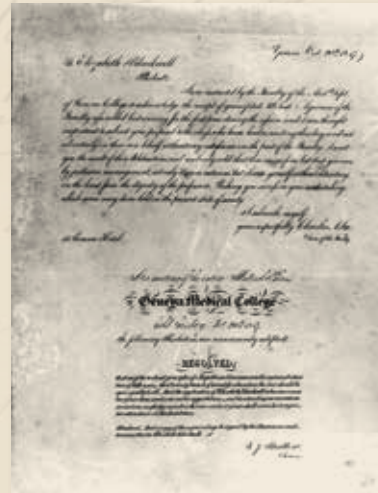
“...I commenced my anatomical studies in the private school of Dr. Allen. This gentleman by his thoughtful arrangements enabled me to overcome the natural repulsion to these studies generally felt at the outset. With a tact and delicacy for which I have always felt grateful, he gave me as my first lesson in practical anatomy a demonstration of the human wrist. The beauty of the tendons and exquisite arrangement of this part of the body struck my artistic sense, and appealed to the sentiment of reverence with which this

anatomical branch of study was ever afterwards invested in my mind.”

Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women: Autobiographical Sketches by Elizabeth Blackwell (1895)



FROM ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

“I therefore obtained a complete list of all the smaller schools of the Northern States...and sent in application for admission to twelve of the most promising institutions, where full courses of instruction were given under able

professors. The result was awaited with much anxiety... At last, to my immense relief (though not surprise, for failure never seemed possible), I received the following letter from the medical department of a small university town in the western part of the state of New York.”

Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women: Autobiographical Sketches by Elizabeth Blackwell (1895)

Medical education of this era was sparse at best, with the American Medical Association being formed in 1847 to address the inconsistent and ineffective education most medical students received. Attendance at lectures for 16 weeks was required, two years in a row, with some preliminary years of study under the guidance of a practitioner. If a student managed to scrape together some observations in between terms, that was likely to be their only exposure to a real patient before receiving their diploma.

“Knowing very little of practical medicine, I finally decided to spend the summer, if possible, studying in the hospital wards of the great Blockley Alms House of Philadelphia.”

Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women: Autobiographical Sketches by Elizabeth Blackwell (1895)



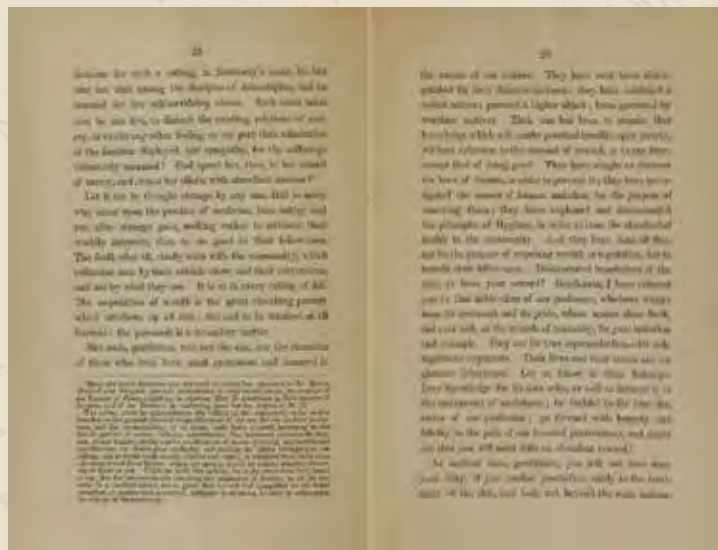
COURTESY OF YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Lithograph of Blockley Almshouse in 1838

As the medical curriculum afforded almost no practical training, students were responsible for seeking their own clinical opportunities between terms. The awakening Elizabeth experienced at Blockley, where the poorest of Philadelphia society suffered through debilitating illness in inhumane conditions, was pivotal. Though she chose to write her thesis on the typhoid cases she observed here, significant time spent in the women's Syphilis wards opened her eyes to the moral degeneration of society, which she would proselytize against for the duration of her career.

"But this terrible epidemic furnished an impressive object-lesson, and I chose this form of typhus as the subject of my graduation thesis, studying in the midst of the poor dying sufferers who crowded the hospital wards."

Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women: Autobiographical Sketches by Elizabeth Blackwell (1895)



Valedictory Address to the Graduating Class of the Geneva College of Medicine at the Public Commencement.

"After the degree had been conferred on the others, I was called up alone to the platform. The President, in full academical costume, rose as I came on the stage, and, going through the usual formula of a short Latin address, presented me my diploma. I said: 'Sir, I thank you; it shall be the effort of my life, with the help of the Most High, to shed honour on my diploma.' The audience applauded..."

Excerpt from Journal (1849)

The same residents of Geneva who had ridiculed her turned out in droves to witness the conferring of diplomas. When she was invited to process down the aisle with the rest of the graduates she refused, pointing out that parading in public was inappropriate for a lady. After the ceremony, her brother Henry escorted her out of the First Presbyterian Church past an enthusiastic crowd that included many women.



Map of death rate of typhoid fever in the Mid-Atlantic region

Elizabeth observed throngs of Irish immigrants fleeing the famine, exiting ships infected with typhoid fever, spilling into the halls of Blockley Almshouse. Her thesis shows great insights regarding how little was actually understood about disease; germ theory was mocked as Quackery, in favor of the miasma theory that blamed "bad air" for the spreading of illness. Yet, her writings also demonstrate little sympathy for the patients, who she observed in a rather calculated manner.

COURTESY OF SCHELSINGER LIBRARY ON THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN AMERICA, RADCLIFFE INSTITUTE



To view the exhibit in its entirety, visit <https://hsl.upstate.edu/blackwellexhibit>.



Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79,
was named president of Upstate
Medical University in November
2020.

A Force Multiplier

During an unprecedented year, President Mantosh Dewan has elevated Upstate Medical University by inspiring and supporting its greatest asset: Its people.

BY RENÉE GEARHART LEVY

On a Saturday in early February, Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79, president of Upstate Medical University, and Robert Corona, DO, CEO of University Hospital, traversed the halls of the hospital with a vaccine cart, visiting every nursing unit to offer the COVID-19 vaccine on the spot. "We wanted to reach the people who hadn't gotten the vaccine because they were too busy or because they had concerns about it," says Dr. Dewan. "We wanted to be out there supporting the people who are doing very hard work and doing it so well."

That's been Dewan's goal since he took the helm of Upstate as interim president in December 2018, to raise the profile of the institution by helping each of its 10,000-plus employees to "be better."

It's a leadership philosophy he draws from his 41 years as a practicing psychiatrist. "With the physician/patient model, the goal is to work with the individual patient to make them better," he says. "I've found leadership and working with people not much different. My job is to work to have 10,000 terrific people do even better. It's actually quite simple. You pick the very best people and then empower them and support them to do their work."

It's clearly working. To say Dewan took over at a tumultuous time is an understatement. The institution's previous two presidencies had ended

"I've found leadership and working with people not much different. My job is to work to have 10,000 terrific people do even better. It's actually quite simple. You pick the very best people and then empower them and support them to do their work."

—Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79

abruptly. Dewan agreed to provide stable leadership while a search for a permanent successor was underway. The arrival of a global pandemic brought unprecedented stress to the hospital system while upending the University's educational model. National political turmoil and a reckoning over systemic racism contributed to an overall sense of anxiety for many of the University's employees and students. It should have been enough to scare anyone off.

Instead, Dewan has been lauded for Upstate's contributions in the fight against COVID-19, including clinical trials for vaccines and treatments and breakthrough biotechnology research. Upstate's chief of infectious disease, Stephen Thomas, MD, was named lead principal investigator for Pfizer's global Phase 3 clinical trials of the COVID-19 vaccine and co-authored a paper on its efficacy published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In partnership with Quadrant Biosciences, Upstate co-developed the Clarify COVID-19 test, the world's number-one ranked saliva test according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The test is accurate for detection of all common strains of the virus and also detects asymptomatic cases. Additional development of wastewater testing and a COVID pooled surveillance testing program have allowed colleges and universities across the state to meet the demands of regular testing for students, faculty and staff on campuses, and has been used by other entities, including Syracuse University and the Albany International Airport.

In September 2020, the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees issued a commendation to Upstate Medical University and Dewan for "exceptional leadership in combating the COVID-19 pandemic." The commendation extolled Dewan for his work in advancing the technological and scientific research to ensure the ability of SUNY campuses to continue providing "world



President Dewan with students on Match Day 2021



Dr. Dewan circa 2000

class education and student services in the face of a global pandemic” and further recognized members of the Upstate community and their “steadfast commitment to keeping our students, campuses and communities safe.”

But Dewan is typically humble in accepting any credit. “We’ve always had these shining stars. But it really took the deep darkness of a pandemic to allow these stars to shine,” he says.

Dewan was named president of Upstate Medical University in November, surprising himself more than anyone. “It’s certainly an honor and a privilege but I did not see myself in the role,” he says. “I’ve always loved being a professor and treating patients.”

But those around him have long thought otherwise, including former Upstate President Gregory Eastwood, MD, who encouraged Dewan to apply for the position. “Dr. Dewan has made extraordinary contributions to Upstate for so many years,” says Eastwood, now SUNY Professor. “He would be well qualified to lead Upstate at any time in our history, but that is especially so now. His remarkable leadership during the COVID pandemic has been reassuring and inspiring to all of us faculty, staff, and students throughout Upstate.”

“Dr. Dewan has held every

VITAL STATISTICS

Birthplace: Bombay, India

Education: Elphinstone College; T.N. Medical College, Bombay University

Publications: Thirty-five books or book chapters and 75 papers and hundreds of presentations on topics ranging from brain imaging and the economics of mental health care to psychotherapy and medical education. He served on the editorial boards of the *Annals of Clinical Psychiatry and Surgical Neurology*.

Honors: Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association; Scientific Achievement Award from the Indo-American Psychiatrists Association; Exemplary Psychiatrist Award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill; the 2010 George Tarjan Award from the American Psychiatric Association; appointed SUNY Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Behavior Sciences in 2009; designated a SUNY Exemplary Chair in 2011.

Family: Wife Anita; son Amant, who works in finance in New York City; daughter Radhika Fliegel, an attorney in Los Angeles; and three grandchildren.

important leadership position at Upstate Medical University and understands how the University and the state work together. You combine that with an approach to leadership that combines achieving results with compassion for the students and faculty, I think it’s an unbeatable combination,” says Lawrence Chin, MD, dean of the College of Medicine.

“He is what author Liz Wiseman would say is a ‘Force Multiplier,’” adds Corona. “He makes everyone feel valued and feel smarter. He leads by example.”

Dewan has always been drawn to people’s stories and once thought he would become a journalist. He became interested in medicine when his mother had spine surgery. Her neurosurgeon became a family friend and a role model. In medical school at Bombay University, Dewan discovered psychiatry. “It was the perfect mix of brain and mind and stories and people,” he says.

But in India, psychiatry training followed the British model, which was biologically based. Dewan was interested in the therapeutic approach of U.S. training. “I was convinced that the training would be not only significantly different, but better,” he says.

Although he didn’t know a single person who had trained in the United States, Dewan arrived in Syracuse for his residency in psychiatry at Upstate

Medical University in 1975, along with his wife Anita. They never left.

After completing his training in 1979, Dewan joined the faculty as an assistant professor of psychiatry, rising through the ranks, and was named a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in 2009. He served as department chair, director of undergraduate education, director of residency training, and served as interim dean of the College of Medicine from October 2016 to June 2017.

Although he's had plenty of opportunity to go elsewhere, Dewan had no desire to leave, finding intellectual excitement within Upstate's Department of Psychiatry. "It's a small department populated by

kind, brilliant people who provided a stimulating environment to debate everything from psychiatry and medicine to philosophy and law," he says. "It's the only program I have ever seen where disagreements are not swatted down but celebrated." He cites former colleague Thomas Szasz, MD, who wrote *The Myth of Mental Illness*, an argument against the field of psychiatry. "How wonderful to be in a department that can raise that question."

From early on, Dewan was most interested in treatment-resistant patients, which became the topic of his first book, *The Difficult to Treat Psychiatric Patient*. "In a perverse way, I kind of enjoyed being defeated," he says. "Every session was a challenge when you didn't do well. It forced

me to retreat and say, 'what can I do now? How can I reach this person in a different way?' In medicine, we talk about the science and art of medicine, but we sometimes forget the poetry of medicine where you have to try something that is really out of the box."

That ability has served Dewan well over the last year. He also points to his 45-year tenure at the institution and the relationships developed during that time. "I cannot imagine coming from outside and stepping into the role of president. Just learning the system and making relationships with people would be a very long process before you could start to be effective," he says.

One of those long-time colleagues is Frank Middleton, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and physi-



Along with University hospital CEO Robert Corona, DO, President Dewan visits with nursing staff to offer the COVID-19 vaccine.

ology. “I first met Mantosh Dewan almost 25 years ago, when he was a faculty member in psychiatry and I had just read some of his forward-thinking research in schizophrenia,” says Dr. Middleton, who joined Upstate as a faculty member shortly after Dewan became chair of psychiatry. “From the outset, he has always offered his support of my research ideas, seeking to build the neuroscience research portfolio on campus through strategic hiring and investment in cutting-edge science.”

In the past year, that’s gone to a new level. Middleton, who developed a saliva test to diagnose autism, was working on a saliva test to diagnose concussion when he turned his attention to a test to detect COVID-19. With the support of the institution behind him, he was quickly successful developing a saliva test that can be used on 12 samples at once.

“His research is both brilliant and very practically useful,” says Dewan. “Our job was to help get the infrastructure to support that work.”

“We have lots of strengths. I’m confident we will be able to build on our successes of the last year so that we can shine in many other areas where we have superb people that have been eclipsed a little bit during the pandemic.”

—Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS ’79

In the beginning, testing machines were very difficult to obtain. “We were lucky in getting the support of SUNY Chancellor Maltras and Governor Cuomo to get us machines to extend Dr. Middleton’s lab,” says

Dewan. “We did basically very little and he did both the science and the running of the samples from morning to very late at night.”

Middleton sees it differently. “Dr. Dewan has been an extraordinary advocate for the translational impact research can have on clinical practice and public health,” he says. “I would never have succeeded in creating an FDA-authorized individual and pooled saliva test without President Dewan and his vigorous endorsement and sponsorship of the work it took to bring it to fruition. He simply inspires the best in all of us, as all exceptional leaders do.”

That work continues to make a major impact. SUNY has mandated that all on-campus students system-wide get tested every week. On March 15, Upstate Medical and partner Quadrant Biosciences opened a second lab funded by SUNY, this one on the SUNY-Buffalo campus. The lab is able to process 150,000 tests a week, increasing total testing to 350,000 tests per week across SUNY, with results being returned to campuses within 24 hours.

But Dewan stresses that COVID-19 is only one threat. “We have lots of strengths. I’m confident we will be able to build on our successes of the last year so that we can shine in many other areas where we have superb people that have been eclipsed a little bit during the pandemic,” he says.

In the last two years, for example, Upstate has made important additions to community health through expanded services for cardiac care, urology, cancer, and neurosurgery, and the openings of the Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatry Unit, and the Golisano Center for Special Needs. The Nappi Longevity Institute will open in 2023. In March, Upstate opened SUNY’s first Level 3 Vector Biocontainment Lab, allowing researchers to collaborate on counter-



Frank Middleton, PhD, explains his research to New York Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul and Dr. Dewan.



Upstate's Black History Month Observance in 2020

measures for emerging public health threats such as SARS CoV-2, Lyme disease, Powassan encephalitis, West Nile encephalitis, Zika virus disease, Chikungunya virus disease, Dengue fever, and malaria. Overall, research grants increased 15 percent and faculty published 44 percent more papers than the year before.

And in February, Forbes ranked Upstate Medical University number 35 out of 500 Best Large Employers, the highest of any medical school or hospital in New York.

"I'm very optimistic," says Dewan. "We have built an infrastructure that will serve us well and I think we have changed our culture in a way that has become more efficient and kind."

Part of that culture shift is an emphasis on collaboration. While University Hospital is unique as the only regional medical center and academic medical center in the region, Dewan says Syracuse is fortunate to have three other very good hospitals and he hopes to collaborate with all of them. He cites one recent example as a partnership with the VA Medical Center to start a joint residency program in family medicine. He also supports the development of joint degree programs between the College of Medicine and Syracuse University.

"It would be great to combine

our strengths," says Dewan. "Dean Larry Chin is working to extend our degree offerings, potentially the ability to earn an MD/JD, an MD/MPA, MD/MBA, or an MD with a master's from the Newhouse School. I can see the next Sanjay Gupta on CNN coming from Upstate/Newhouse. We should be able to attract a wider range of students who are interested in combining these things."

Upstate is preparing to seek approval from the LCME to offer an optional three-year curriculum, essentially eliminating the fourth year typically spent on electives and interviewing. "If approved, we will offer that option beginning in 2023," Dewan says.

In the meantime, Upstate has committed to increasing the size of the incoming College of Medicine class from 170 to 185 over a three-year period, with a plan to add five additional students to the incoming class in each of the next three years. At the same time, the College is also making substantial efforts toward diversity, he says. "The 2019 entering class had about 11 percent underrepresented students; the class that just started in 2020 has 23 percent underrepresented students," Dewan says.

Upstate will also take part in a new SUNY Pre-Medical Scholars Pipeline Program to help more Educational Opportunity Program students into

SUNY medical schools. "The new SUNY for All Pre-Medical Scholars Pipeline Program will be a deliberate and well-executed mechanism to increase much-needed diversity in our medical school and across the state," says Dewan. "This program will allow more young men and women from a wider variety of backgrounds pursue their dreams of becoming a doctor."

In January, the Medical Alumni Foundation held its annual Career Advisory Networking event, held for the first time virtually. Students who joined the psychiatry break-out room were likely surprised to find President Dewan there ready to offer advice. "There wasn't a president category, so I chose psychiatry," he jokes.

As always, Dewan reveled in sharing his experiences and the rich array of career options with students considering the field. But he also very much enjoyed connecting with the alumni who had logged in from various locales. "I would love for them to be closer connected because they have enormous talents that we can tap into," he says. "I'd like to have a regular networking exchange, both to keep abreast of their accomplishments and for them to feel as proud of their institution as we do."

It all goes back to his interest in people and their stories. Whether it's his patients, students, faculty, researchers, or alumni, Dewan is their champion.

"The past year has been an incredibly challenging time for all of us, but at the same time, incredibly gratifying, given that we've done so well," says Dewan. "I've always had faith in Upstate and was confident we could meet the challenge. We have done so in spades." ■

A Soundtrack for Medical School

FOR ALAN HE '24, MUSIC AND MEDICINE ARE COMPLEMENTARY PURSUITS.

After a long day of classes or a grueling exam, you're likely to find first-year medical student Tianfang "Alan" He at his computer composing electronic music. Or perhaps jamming out to some Jimi Hendrix. For as long as he can remember, music has been his passion.

"Music is built on a foundation of perpetual curiosity, technical excellence, and effective collaboration. It can capture the spirit of a generation, express previously intangible emotions, or challenge our understanding of social concepts. Plus, there's nothing better than just sitting down, being creative, and jamming with friends," he says.

Alan grew up in a music-filled home

in the Bronx. "My parents were always playing these soundtracks from Oscar-winning films with terrific scores. They used the music to create a joyous atmosphere and I think that optimism really stuck with me," he says.

Before long, he was performing himself, first piano, and later trumpet, clarinet, saxophone, and by middle school, drums. "I participated in a couple school bands and was able to try numerous instruments. If I had the time, I'd love to master them all, but I just dabble," he says.

As a high school student, Alan was exposed to aspects of music beyond performance—history, theory, composition, as well as electronic music.

"In jazz, there is a solo section where you can express your emotions and display individual virtuosity in the context of the larger piece," he says. "I enjoyed the freedom associated with improv and creating something new."

Improvisation eventually led to composition. "Electronic music and a MIDI keyboard allowed me to leverage my background in piano to write for any instrument under the sun. Together, they let me compose pieces, score films, and produce beats like my mentors and idols," says Alan.

He reveled in the social commentary of hip hop. "That's the music I really fell in love with because it represented the culture of my borough, our immigrant populace, and the challenges of the social economic class divide."

Driven by a desire to better understand the genre's impact on society, Alan would go on to explore the dichotomy of popular hip hop and politically conscious hip hop for his senior project at Middlebury College, where he double majored in music and biochemistry. He says his dual pursuits worked different sections of his brain. "I never felt over-committed; it actually helped me develop a deeper appreciation of both the sciences and the arts," he says.

Alan grew up in an underserved, underprivileged community, but attended both local public and elite private schools on scholarship, which provided a unique lens for him to view the world. "Growing up in the immigrant community of the Bronx is similar to attending a multicultural potluck: everyone brings something. Individuals offer perspectives with power to radically improve the community if we are open to the conversation. It's my goal to better understand and share the perspectives of others while broadening my own worldview through academic,



Medical student Alan He is an accomplished musician who enjoys playing music and composing to destress from medical studies.

“Music is built on a foundation of perpetual curiosity, technical excellence, and effective collaboration. It can capture the spirit of a generation, express previously intangible emotions, or challenge our understanding of social concepts. Plus, there’s nothing better than just sitting down, being creative, and jamming with friends.”

— TIANFANG “ALAN” HE

extracurricular, and service activities,” he says.

Upon graduation, Alan followed his passions for science and community service, joining the clinical research team at Montefiore–Einstein Center for Cancer Care, a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) site in his hometown. As the head study coordinator for NCI MATCH, a precision medicine cancer treatment trial in which patients receive treatments based on genetic mutations found in their tumors, he worked directly with patients, physicians, and entire clinical teams. “I learned the value of effective communication and technical acumen in the professional world while reaffirming my decision to practice medicine in the future,” he says.

That desire to better communicate provided the impetus for Alan’s concurrent venture. Along with some college friends, he founded ElectroGraphic (EG), a consulting firm focused on visual storytelling through professional graphics for academic publications and grants. “We work with dedicated physicians and innovative researchers to help transform complex ideas into easily understandable figures. Accessibility is key,” he says of the company that has since branched to other academic disciplines. In the first year alone, EG’s work was featured in multiple peer-reviewed publications with authorship status.

“My experiences in 2016 taught me that the healthcare industry is a multifaceted space, constantly evolving to better serve the needs of our patient populations,” he says. “I thought the future would involve greater integration with the technology and became determined

to learn more about artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, and internet communication infrastructure.”

Spurred by this growing interest, Alan joined the New York office of a startup called MightyHive, a data and digital media consultancy, where he fulfilled his curiosity and gained invaluable insight into the importance of listening more than you speak. “I had developed a decent ear for listening to the other members of the ensembles I played with; it definitely helps in the business world.” After the company merged with S4Capital, Alan decided it was time to return to healthcare and enrolled in medical school. “Working on NCI MATCH, I fell in love with the process of thinking about what was best for our patients,” he says. “But I also realized I wanted ownership and accountability for those decisions.”

He says his varied experiences all play a role in who he is as a medical student. President of both Opportunities, Networking and Careers in Oncology (ONCO) and the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA), he’s also co-founded the Entrepreneurship Club, and is working with the Center for Community Engagement to create a program to partner Upstate students with middle and high school students in the community to help foster a love for music and the arts in various forms.

While working in New York, Alan spent his weekends teaching kids how

to create electronic music and score films. “It stems from my love of hip hop and making things more accessible,” he says. “Electronic music is deeply tied to composition, samples, and synths. You don’t need a physical instrument anymore. You can do so much with GarageBand or Audacity on your computer and it’s free and easy to share,” he says.

He hopes to make the Syracuse program a reality once the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is complete. “It’s important to lower the barriers to entry so that more people can be exposed to something that could potentially inspire them and help them express themselves through artistic means,” he says.

He has also been part of an outreach group at Upstate that has worked with Symphoria, the local Syracuse musician-led cooperative orchestra, on a program to bring musical performances into the Golisano Children’s Hospital. “Right now, the collaboration is digital and involves streaming concerts and content into the pediatric patients’ rooms. I can’t wait to see how the collaboration develops in the coming years,” he says.

In the meantime, making his own music remains one of Alan’s favorite outlets during medical school. He used YouTube tutorials to teach himself to play guitar as a quarantine hobby and continues to compose electronic music and score films. “It’s never a burden to play music, study medicine, or pursue something you love,” he says. “The combination is actually a release from having my nose buried in a book all the time.” ■

CLASS NOTES

1951 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

1952

Harold E. Hunter, of Lansdale, PA, retired as chief of anesthesiology at Hilton Head Hospital, SC, 27 years ago. He and Nancy have lived in a retirement community, Brittany Pointe Estates, for the past 15 years. Their two daughters and families still live in the Syracuse area.

1955 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

1956 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

1957

Marvin A. Leder, of New York, NY, recently retired after practicing diabetes and endocrinology for 60 years. He started when he was in the service and continued on with his return to civilian life. "I will miss the patient relationships. My wife and I will continue to live in Manhattan and Westhampton Beach. I still play doubles tennis and am taking online art courses," he writes.

1960 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

Julian M. Aroesty, of Lexington, MA, writes, "I am still very busy, attending teaching conferences three to four times per week, writing for the cardiology section of UpToDate and continuing to be the MD defense cardiac consultant for the Harvard insurer and for Coverys, a national malpractice insurer. I am trying

to teach my grandchildren Spanish to pass the ancient Spanish Jewish Ladino language and culture to the next generation. I am cycling about 500 miles per month, hoping to beat last year's record of 2,100 miles during my winter sojourn on Longboat Key, FL. I plan on attending reunion in September as long as my health permits."

Leonard R. Friedman, of Middleton, MA, would like to note the success of former roommate **Jerome Glazer**, whose family won the Superbowl as the owners of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. "In medical school, he worked hard both in the Rochester family business and schooling. The Glazer family originally bought Manchester United of the English Premier Football (soccer) league. The team has won many championships in this century. The family, through the Glazer Vision Foundation, plays an important part in the life of Tampa Bay. I would suggest that Dr. Glazer, although not noted in the organizational structure of these teams, is an elder looked to for his business

and community wisdom and medical knowledge by the family. I find his success story a continuation of the Class of '60 and its accomplishments."

1961 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

1965 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

Daniel H. Whiteley, of Gallipolis, OH, is happy to report that he's been married to his childhood sweetheart, Edna, for 59 years. The couple has three daughters and nine grandchildren. "Along the road to the present, I practiced general, vascular, and thoracic surgery until retirement in 1998. I've been Gallia County Coroner since 1994 and a few years ago assumed that role in a neighboring county, as well. Also, I'm medical director of the Gallia County Emergency Medical Service," he writes. For 40 years, he and Edna have enjoyed collecting and selling antiques, which led to an interest in restoring toy trucks of the 1950s. Close to retirement, they acquired a 1931 Model A Ford and drove hundreds of miles participating in Model A Restorer's Club events, and eventually

Ronald H. Spiro '55 sends "Greetings from Jerusalem, where the senior Spiros just completed their vaccinations. We added three great-grandchildren, two girls and one boy, to bring our number to an even dozen. We have two newly engaged grandchildren. Wishing you all a peaceful and healthy 2021!"



Julian M. Aroesty '60



Daniel H. Whiteley '65 facing front left and his "Homer," front right

acquired a second. "Edna hands me the parts and tools, and we drive them both. We feel very fortunate to be as active as we are, and particularly during this pandemic, to still be able to serve our community in the ways we do."

1966 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

Michael S. Kreitzer, of Delray Beach, FL, has been appointed chairman of the board/treasurer of Donor Outreach for Veterans (DOVE). The nonprofit was founded by his daughter Sharyn with a goal to assist veterans, active duty military, and first responders who are being treated for end-stage renal disease requiring kidney transplant, by helping to secure a living kidney donor.

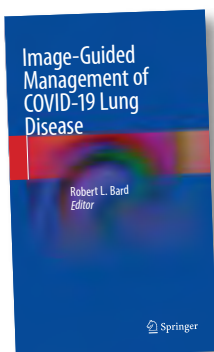
Austin M. Pattner, of Englewood, NJ, is in his 47th year in active practice. "Trying to get it right," he writes. "I am looking forward to the 55th. We just had our third grandchild, a boy."

1967

Daniel C. Nijadlik, of Boca Raton, FL, met **Marty Cohen** for lunch in Delray during the holidays. The snowbirds tried to catch up on the last 53 years, sharing great memories and career stories. "Seemed like 1967 was just a few years ago. We agreed life has been a great ride to date. Contact or join us next season if you are in the area," he writes.

1968

Robert L. Bard, of New York, NY, is editor of *Image-Guided Management of COVID-19 Lung Disease* scheduled for release in May 2021, with authors worldwide.



1970 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

Frederic S. Auerbach, of Portland, OR, writes, "There's a home Syracuse University football game scheduled at the Dome for September 24. Who knows if anything will happen, be it Upstate's plans for reunion, the game, or anything else. But if both occur, hopefully logistics regarding hotels and such can smoothly accommodate pent-up demand. I and others will forever miss Hinerwadel's, a storied venue for so many in past times."

Stephen D. Brenner, of New Haven, CT, retired from his internal medicine practice in New Haven in November 2018. "Looking back, I'm relieved that I didn't have to deal with COVID and telemedicine. My family is well. We have seven amazing grandchildren, two grand-dogs and a grand-ferret. The oldest grandchild, our son's daughter Lucy, is now in the Columbia University class of 2024. She is definitely looking forward to the end of virtual education. Cindy and I still live in New Haven. I wish all my classmates well."

1971 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

Richard A. Goldman, of San Antonio, TX, and his wife Barbara were looking forward to celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2020 in Sullivan County, NY, where they were married. "But alas, COVID-19 hit and we were forced to postpone. We are now planning to hold our 50-plus-1 celebration at the same location in August 2021. We are waiting to see how the pandemic evolves and how the mass vaccination programs proceed. Our fingers are crossed."

Daniel Rutrick, of West Newton, MA, continues as medical director of Adams Clinical of Watertown, MA. He works with his son who is the CEO. Adams Clinical is a clinical research site specializing in major depressive disorder.

1973

Beverly Khnie Philip, of Chestnut Hill, MA, is founding director of the Day Surgery Unit at Brigham and Women's Hospital and professor of anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School in Boston. On October 7, 2020, she was named president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), the nation's largest organization of physician anesthesiologists. Dr. Philip assumed office at the Anesthesiology 2020 annual meeting and will serve for one year.



Beverly Khnie Philip '73

CLASS NOTES

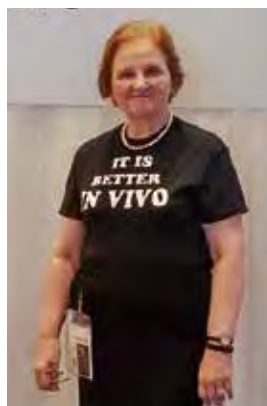
1974



J. Peter Gregoire '74 and his wife Patricia

J. Peter Gregoire, of Romulus, NY, writes, "I started at Upstate in 1970 with three children when I was 28 years old. A graduate of Geneseo, my wife and I had served as teachers in Tanzania as members of the Peace Corps under President Kennedy from 1963-66. Our four adult children are doing well and we are blessed with five grandchildren, the oldest of whom recently graduated from Georgetown Law and passed his bar exam. We are filled with hope as a new president takes office and the COVID-19 vaccine becomes widely available. Such extraordinary times! Pat and I think of our struggles during medical school with a bittersweet fondness. I retired from family medicine and emergency medicine in 2020. We would love to hear from classmates and we are especially thankful for our classmates and faculty who were so supportive of this 'older' student with a family. We thank you all."

Maria M. Shevchuk Chaban, of New York, NY, recently retired from Weill Cornell Medical College, where she was the expert in urological pathology. She also chaired the In Vivo Microscopy Committee of the College of American Pathologists, which seeks to develop and study technology that would enable physicians to render histologic diagnoses "in vivo," without biopsies, or immediately "ex vivo," without processing the biopsied tissue and render histologic diagnoses intraprocedurally. "The year 2020 was significant to my family because two of my three children were married with only the nearest family members in attendance. And we were planning to party!"



Maria M. Shevchuk Chaban '74

1975 Reunion

September 24-25, 2021

Jonathan Lowell, of Shelburne, VT, retired from solo practice as a family practitioner in April 2015. He and his wife moved to Shelburne to be near their three daughters and seven grandkids and remain close

friends with **Molly '74** and **Brent Hastings '74**.

Robert M. Goldberg, of Somers Point, NJ, is happy to remain in solo private practice of medical oncology-hematology in Somers Point and passed 40 years of practice on July 1, 2020. "Looking forward to reunion when the situation is safer. Awaiting the COVID-19 vaccine. My younger daughter **Jackie Mandell '10** is a medical retina specialist in San Diego."

1976 Reunion

September 24-25, 2021

1977

Barton L. Sachs, of Mount Pleasant, SC, retired from the Medical University of South Carolina last summer as professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation medicine and adjunct professor of engineering at Clemson University. In retirement from direct patient care and surgery, he accepted a full-time position as a medical officer at the FDA's Centers for Device and Radiological

Health. "What a change in lifestyle this presents with many video conferences, lots of reading and literature searches, and many written reports," he writes. "This is stimulating, educational, and meaningful work that allows me to provide value in promoting innovations and assuring patient safety. In some ways, this makes me feel as though I am back in college or medical school. I send regards to all my classmates. Please all stay safe and remain well!"

1978

James A. Shaw, of Cabin John, MD, recently published another short book through Amazon titled, *1860-1865: What Else Happened During the American Civil War*. "If interested in history, check it out on Amazon.com," he writes.

1979

James P. Corsones, of Locust Grove, VA, retired on July 6 after 38 years in internal medicine, the first

Marc Rothman '76, of Cherry Hill, NJ, and his wife Phyllis became grandparents on New Year's Day. "I continue in practice of general and geriatric psychiatry," he writes. "Looking forward to our 45th class reunion!"

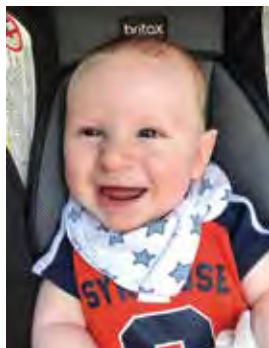
28 in primary care and the last 10 as a hospitalist. He and Linda moved to Virginia to be closer to their two children and four grandchildren. They have seen them more since moving in July than they did in the two previous years. "Happily adjusting to life below the Mason Dixon line and playing golf in January," he writes.

Richard M. Goldberg, of Morgantown, WV, recently received the Ruesch Center for the Cure of Gastrointestinal Cancers 2020 Luminary Award in gastrointestinal cancers for his decades-long commitment to improving the lives of patients with gastrointestinal cancer. As part of the award, he presented the Schafer Memorial Lecture at Georgetown University. He is professor emeritus at West Virginia University, where he previously directed the WVU Cancer Institute. He is now self-employed as a consultant to industry and academic centers and continues to engage in research, mentoring, and editorial volunteer work.

1980 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

Robert L. Levine, of South Miami, FL, shares that he and wife Melanie relocated after a lifetime in Houston, at Baylor and University of Texas, to Miami, where he helped start an Emergency Medicine Residency Program at University of Miami. He has since moved



Maxwell Dankovich Levine, grandson of Robert L. Levine '80

to Florida International University as the founding chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care. "Along the way I served as a program director of an internal medicine residency (one of my boards), chief of critical care (2nd), and now chair of EM (3rd). I've been the associate dean of Graduate Medical Education for a few years and loving the challenge. Melanie and I have met so many amazing people and can't believe the fantastic trip we've been on starting with Upstate. Our oldest daughter (many of you will remember her) was born at St. Joe's and is now a dermatology physician assistant in New York City. Our youngest is a writer at the University of Colorado. Finally, our first grandchild, Maxwell Dankovich Levine, was born at St. Joe's in Syracuse (closing the loop) and is now nine months old and living in Boston where he's 'working' at his mom and dad's bio-technology company. Please come visit; we miss you all and have plenty of room for anyone trying to get out of the cold."

1981 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

Steven M. Connolly, writes, "Although we never thought retirement would arrive or that we would relocate to Florida, both have happened for me and my wife Debra. We built a new house in West Villages near Venice. We are remaining active walking, biking, and hopefully once COVID-19 is controlled, back to music and theater and traveling, especially to visit both of our sons and their new wives and the grand puppies. It's nice to see the sun almost every day."

Gerard R. Martin, of Chevy Chase, MD, received the American College of Cardiology 2021 Distinguished Award, Master of the ACC. The distinguished awardees represent a diverse group of individuals from around the globe who are tangibly helping to transform cardiovascular care and improve the heart health of patients worldwide. The College will formally recognize and honor the awardees during Convocation at the hybrid Annual Scientific Session and Expo in May.

1982

Alan T. Lefor, of Utsunomiya, Japan, continues to conduct research and teach at a number of hospitals in greater Tokyo, in addition to serving as professor of surgery at Jichi

Medical University and trying to finish his PhD in engineering. He recently revived ham radio as a hobby and is licensed in Japan as JJ1HXR. "I look forward to being able to travel again someday. Our granddaughter, Mikoto, just turned two and we are fortunate to see her often. My son, Maarten, 29, is in Los Angeles and is working and doing well in the Internet world. Hoping there will be a 'live' reunion in 2022."



Photo of Fjallabak Nature Reserve by Mark A. Rothschild '82

Mark A. Rothschild, of Lady Lake, FL, continues working at Citrus Cardiology in The Villages, Florida. The pandemic severely curtailed his travel plans. However, he has been vaccinated, and plans to go to the Scottish Highlands on a photography trip in October. He did make it to Iceland before COVID-19.

CLASS NOTES

1984

Michael A. DeVito, of Albany, NY, became an employee of the Albany Medical College department of otolaryngology as of September 1, 2020. He has remained in his previous private practice offices. "Some institutional changes to digest but enjoy the transfer of administrative responsibilities," he writes.

1985 Reunion

September 24-25, 2021

Stephen F. Cocco, of Setauket, NY, recently joined the EmPRO Insurance Board of Directors. EmPRO is the third largest medical malpractice insurer in New York State. His middle son, Joseph, was married in 2019 and his firstborn son, Stephen, was married in 2020. His youngest son James is a student at University of Miami.

Vito J. Losito, of Fayetteville, NY, is in his 33rd year of practice in pediatrics in Syracuse, and now sees the children of children he took care of decades ago. "My own daughter, **Elisabeth M. Losito '14**, along with her husband **Rahul Gupta '14**, was two-months old when I completed my residency. This past year, she completed a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY, and accepted a position as an attending there. She also earned a master of healthcare administration

from the Simons School of Business during her fellowship. Rahul also chose the road of service to our nation's most precious treasure and is practicing primary care pediatrics in Geneva, NY. Even more important, they will be welcoming my first grandchild into the world in May. Happiness knows no bounds as that which a grandchild brings into one's life, just ask **Joe A. '85**, or **Mike R. '85** or so many others of you who have been blessed with the gift. See you all at the reunion this fall. Remember to bring your toga! P.S., a shout out to **Gary Sauer '85** and his wife Trish for showing up for the reunion in September 2020, even though it was canceled. We did have a great time at dinner together."

Simon D. Spivack, of Sleepy Hollow, NY, writes, "The pandemic means popularity as a pulmonologist. I am still running a research lab in lung biology at Einstein. Hunkering down with Ingrid and Zack in Westchester."



Simon D. Spivack '85 and Robert C. Berlin '85 at Red Rocks, Utah, in fall 2020

1986 Reunion

September 24-25, 2021

Shelley R. Berson, of Nyack, NY, published a new paper in August 2020, "House Dust Mite Related Allergic Rhinitis and REM Sleep Disturbances," and is proud to say her classmate **Elizabeth Prezio** contributed. She also started a second job at the VA in Wappingers Falls, NY.

Donna E. Roth, of Lexington, KY, writes, "Hope to make it to the reunion this year, pandemic willing!"



Heather North '86 and Donna E. Roth '86

Brian K. Smith, of Syracuse, has been in practice nearly 32 years with his good friend and classmate **John G. O'Brien**. "The good in 2020 was that my wife and I welcomed our first grandchild!"

1987

Gail Gazelle, of Brookline, MA, recently released her new book, *Everyday Resilience: A Practical Guide to Build Inner Strength and Weather Life's Challenges*. "This is a short and practical read that is particularly relevant during the pandemic," she says.

1988

Erick C. Bulawa, of Greeneville, TN, became certified by ADCES (The Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists) as a national DPP lifestyle coach in January 2020, and in November 2020, received board certification from the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine. "This fits in nicely with my previous board certifications in internal medicine, pediatrics, obesity medicine, clinical lipidology, and physician nutrition specialist to run the Metabolic, Weight Management and Lifestyle Center (an intensive therapeutic lifestyle change treatment program) as well as my general internal medicine practice in Greeneville," he writes.

WENDY WILCOX '94

Tackling Health Disparities

When it comes to breast cancer in New York City, there are still disparities in care for communities of color. Wendy Wilcox, MD '94, a clinical system lead for women's health and chair of obstetrics and gynecology for NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, has practiced OB/GYN and women's health with a focus on achieving health equity and eliminating disparities across populations throughout her career.

After earning a bachelor's degree in biomedical ethics from Brown University, Dr. Wilcox attended SUNY Upstate Medical University and completed her residency at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn.

"There were women's care counselors that were placed in the dorms to help students get to the right resources in case of date rape, or to help inform about public health topics like STIs, how to stay healthy, or how to identify eating disorders. I became intrigued, not thinking that this would inform what I do later," says Wilcox.

"In that rotation, I learned that I liked talking to my patients—you talk to the parents. I really enjoyed a lot of teaching and informing. As I was moving over to women's health, it's such a wide-open field—it just drew me in."

Wilcox became an attending at Montefiore Medical Center, which led to her being director of her medical group and assistant professor in OB/GYN at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Recently, she was named co-chair for Governor Cuomo's Taskforce on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes, which recommended the newly formed New York State Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

In her experience, Wilcox notices that those who are coming for their annual check-ups and mammographies are generally already engaged in their health and tend to follow the recommended practices. The problem comes with those who aren't seeking treatment, particularly those who are African American or are of African descent, populations at a higher risk of dying from breast cancer.

"There is still a mistrust of the medical community for valid reasons," says Wilcox. "Historically, we can look back and see many, many examples of how African Americans and immigrants have been the victims of some really horrific medical experiments. African American women are much more likely to die of breast cancer than Caucasian women because they are generally diagnosed at a later stage and are more likely to have triple-negative breast

cancer. The gap is widening where there was a disparity before."

Triple negative breast cancer, which shows no estrogen receptors, progesterone receptors, and excess HER2 protein, accounts for 10 to 15 percent of breast cancer and has a low survival rate. It is common for African American women under the age of 40, or women with the BRCA1 mutation.

Multiple health organizations recommend that women start getting regular mammograms at the age of 40. In Wilcox's experience, she finds that many women aren't getting their mammograms because they think the procedure is more painful than it actually is.

While there are some genetic factors that can lead to the development of breast cancer, Wilcox says that maintaining overall health can help reduce risk factors for developing breast cancer. Quitting smoking, managing weight, and staying away from processed foods can help reduce the risk for women at any age, while women of reproductive age can breast-feed to reduce their risk.

"The healthier one is in general, the healthier one will be when looking at certain diseases," she says. "Eating healthy, eating correct amounts of fruits and vegetables, exercising, trying to avoid refined and processed foods and sugars, reducing alcohol intake" can all make a difference," she says.

Wilcox stresses that breast cancer is a lifetime risk. "We may not be as concerned about our nutritional intake, but the older one gets, the higher the chances of having breast cancer and it increases in menopause. Being thoughtful of maintaining overall health is good for your breasts."

—Emily Davenport

Reprinted with permission from AMNY



Wendy Wilcox, MD '94, is chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County.

CLASS NOTES



Brian Harper '88

Brian Harper, of Westbury, NY, is currently chief medical officer and associate professor at New York Institute of Technology and has added the role of vice president for equity and inclusion to his current responsibilities. He joins the president's council, comprised of the university's administrative leaders.



Adam L. Seidner '88

Adam L. Seidner, of Old Lyme, CT, has been working on bending the curve of the opioid epidemic and helping employers address the issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a recipient of the 2020 Comp Laude Award and

was honored in the category of Doctor/Physician Comp Laude. He was also named to the Comp Laude Honor Roll. He has worked on many public health issues over the years including indoor air quality, opioid epidemic, epidemics, pandemics, and catastrophic events. He has been responsible for medical policy development, quality assurance and improvement for a number of organizations and was involved in vaccine development and testing for 10 years. The Comp Laude award was for his work in improving worker health and safety in the workplace, in particular his contribution to the development of an IW centric perspective in medical care and case management as well as research on the RETAIN-CT, BRITE, and CPH-NEW grants.

1989

Donna Geiger-Blansfield, of Setauket, NY, retired from ophthalmology after 30 years spent between residency, private practice, and group practice. "My goal has always been to help patients achieve and retain their best vision, so I thought 20/20 would be the perfect year for me to retire," she writes. She will spend her time traveling with her husband, Scott, and visiting and hosting friends and family in New York and Florida, whenever it's safe to do so.



Stephen R. Weinman '89 with the FirstCare staff

Stephen R. Weinman, of New Paltz, NY, shares how COVID-19 impacted his medical practice. "My medical center, FirstCare, went from seeing 120 patients per day in February, to 40 patients per day in mid-March, to more than 220 patients per day in October. It's been a wild ride and trying to keep up with the demands of COVID-19 testing while keeping our staff safe has been the most challenging thing I have encountered in my 13 years at FirstCare. With the help of my wife, Mille, and our incredible team, we have managed to test up to 150 patients per day with outdoor testing and have installed negative pressure rooms in the office for patients that must be seen. I look forward to 2021

when we can beat this disease and get back to something like normal, as our 35th reunion is only three years away!"

1990 Reunion
September 24•25, 2021

1991 Reunion
September 24•25, 2021

1994
Sharon A. McFayden-Eyo, of Salisbury MD, writes, "Happy 2021! While the pandemic has remained a challenge, 2020 produced some exciting news for our family. Our medical school

MATTHEW DOUST '98

Combating Coronavirus

According to the *Washington Post*, one person in the United States died of the coronavirus every 28 seconds during the month of January. At the same time, scientists and physicians across the nation and world were working to bring additional vaccines to market to combat the virus.

The Hope Research Institute, based in Phoenix, Arizona, is doing its part, partnering with pharmaceutical companies engaged in vaccine development to conduct Phase 3 clinical trials for coronavirus vaccines. In August 2020, they began trials for Pfizer and Moderna, then partnered with Janssen and AstraZeneca, and now Novavax and Inovio. "It's been very easy to recruit subjects," says Matthew Doust, MD '98, a partner in the Institute. "People just want to move past this. In the first 48 hours after we went live to enroll patients on our website, we had several thousand people sign up."

Doust is an anesthesiologist who specializes in pain management and treats patients at the Pain Center in Phoenix. Seventeen years ago, he and some of his medical partners opened the Hope Research Institute, initially to conduct studies related to pain management. They have been involved in virtually all of the device trials for spinal cord stimulators over the past 10 years and served as the primary clinical site to test Nevro's high-frequency spinal-cord stimulator system.

But over time, that niche has expanded to include vaccine studies. When COVID-19 first hit the United States in early 2020, the institute was finishing up a clinical trial for Pfizer on a vaccine for *Clostridium Difficile*, a gastrointestinal infection, and had conducted a recent trial on a vaccine for dengue fever. "We also had previous involvement with Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson," says Doust. "We let them know we were interested in being involved with their trials and it took off from there."

Doust believes the speed with which these vaccines were developed and brought to market is a tremendous accomplishment. "You can't underestimate the importance of biotechnology," he says. "The fact that they were able to sequence virus, come up with genetic constructs, and design appropriate vaccines and bring them to market essentially seven to eight months later is really impressive. Some of the vaccine studies we've been involved with have gone on for a couple of years."

Doust says it's also unique that several vaccines to treat the same virus are being tested at once, especially

since pharmaceutical companies have taken different approaches in their vaccines to combat the virus. While the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use mRNA technology, the Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines take a more traditional approach using adenovirus viral vectors, and the Novavax vaccine employs a new proprietary technology called a recombinant spike protein nanoparticle. "They're basically injecting a protein that looks exactly like the spike protein you see in coronavirus that creates an immune response," he explains.

Doust stresses that the speed in which the vaccines were developed should not make people question their safety. "There are certainly people who are hesitant about a vaccine without a long track record or that they don't understand," he says. "As physicians, we need to be leaders in this phase and help patients address their fears," he says.

That may require a discussion about the science of how mRNA works. "It's taken into the cell, but it's not taken into the nucleus so it's not going to be permanently implanted into your DNA. I think that's what a lot of people are concerned about, but when I sit down and have a conversation in simple terms with patients and staff, most of them are able to kind of get past that pretty quickly," he says.

Doust says Hope Research continues to follow patients in the trials as part of safety studies and patients who received placebo vaccines as part of Pfizer and Moderna trials have been brought back to receive the actual vaccine.

Doust had the Pfizer vaccine himself early this year with no complication but a sore arm. "I had to wait my turn like everyone else," he says.

It was a full-circle moment. "I've never been involved in a study and then gotten what we were studying," he says. "For me, that was very interesting."

—Renée Gearhart Levy



Matthew Doust, MD '98, with his wife and children in Phoenix.

CLASS NOTES



Alexis Keeley, daughter of Sharon A. McFayden-Eyo '94, above, and above right



baby, Alexis (1992) is now a second lieutenant in the Air Force, having graduated in March from Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL. If not enough, she finished 2020 by eloping in Las Vegas on December 31. Congrats to Mr. and Mrs. Keeley! Be well. Be safe."

1995 Reunion
September 24-25, 2021

1996 Reunion
September 24-25, 2021

1998

Matthew R. Kaufman, of Sleepy Hollow, NY, is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon (board certified in both plastic and reconstructive surgery and otolaryngology-head and neck surgery) who has pioneered phrenic nerve reconstruction to reverse diaphragm paralysis. In October 2020, Dr. Kaufman performed his 500th phrenic nerve surgery. He is among very

few surgeons in the world to perform this surgery and has the largest worldwide experience to date. He has been performing these surgeries since 2007 and has treated patients from every state in the U.S. and from virtually every continent—countries including Australia, Japan, Bolivia, Canada, Italy, Germany, South Africa, and Israel. He is in private practice in New Jersey and has also established a program for diaphragm paralysis treatment at the David Geffen UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA, where he is a voluntary clinical assistant professor of surgery. He is excited to share his phrenic nerve reconstruction program



Matthew R. Kaufman '98 (right) with his 500th phrenic nerve surgery patient

with his Upstate alumni colleagues at www.advancedreconstruction.com/phrenic-nerve-program/.

William A. Markoff, of Santa Rosa, CA, is celebrating 20 years in family medicine private practice in his hometown of Santa Rosa, and is joining a large medical group Providence/St. Joseph this spring. "I also received the second COVID-19 vaccine, and experienced no side effects with either!"



William A. Markoff '98

2000 Reunion
September 24-25, 2021

Robert L. Smith of Penfield, NY, currently serves as chief of outpatient medicine for UPMC Thompson Health and has helped to oversee the transition to telemedicine services at FF Thompson Hospital. He has been involved in telemedicine for decades and is a co-founder of Updoo, which has moved to the forefront of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic and was recently acquired by EverCommerce.

2001 Reunion
September 24-25, 2021

2003

Sajid A. Khan, of Easton, CT, has been appointed section chief of hepatopancreato-biliary (HPB) and mixed tumors in the division of surgical oncology, Department of Surgery. This new section brings together many years of program development in gastrointestinal cancer care at Yale. As of March 1, he became responsible for further developing patient access across the health system with partners at the Smilow Cancer Hospital, the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers, and Yale Cancer Center. He joined the Yale School of Medicine faculty in 2013 and has since established a busy clinical practice for his expertise in the management of melanoma, benign and malignant diseases of the liver, pancreas and biliary tree. His NIH-funded, clinical translational research studies variability in tumor biology



Sajid A. Khan '03

based on ethnicity and sex. In 2019, he was promoted to associate professor of surgery (oncology). He will continue in his role as co-director of team science at the Yale Center of Clinical Investigation.

2005 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021



Dodji Modjinou '09 receiving his award

2006 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

2008

Marissa and Michael Mincolla, of Baldwinsville, NY, along with big sister Mariella, welcomed a baby boy, Vincenzo Michael, on September 7, 2020.

September 15, 2020. They have a four-year-old son, Jackson, who is very excited to be a big brother.

Dodji Modjinou, of Las Vegas, NV, was humbled and honored to be listed among the Vegas Inc's 2020 Top Doctor Honoree List. He was included as one of the top five rheumatologists in Las Vegas.

2009

Lindsay W. and Christopher M. Jones, of Severna Park, MD, welcomed identical twin sons, Kaenon and Cruz, on

2010 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021

2011 Reunion

September 24•25, 2021



Kaenon and Cruz, identical twin sons of Lindsey W. Jones '09 and Christopher M. Jones '09



Dodji Modjinou '09 with daughter Elom and wife Leticia

2012

Brian D. Santacrose, of Santa Barbara, CA, and his wife, Diana, welcomed their daughter, Isabella Sophia, on December 15.



Brian D. Santacrose '12 with wife Diana and daughter Isabella Sophia

CLASS NOTES



Kaia, daughter of Nikolai V. Kolotiniuk '13 offers her impressions of 2020 (left) and 2021 (right).

2013

Nikolai V. Kolotiniuk, of Fresno, CA, writes, "Let's hope my little daughter is right!" (See photos above.)

2016

Kristy M. Semenza, of Clifton Park, NY, has accepted a job as division head of allergy and immunology at Bassett Health in Cooperstown. She will start in the summer of 2021, after the completion of her fellowship.

2017

Tara F. Brenner and Ian M. Kratzke, of Durham, NC, welcomed their first daughter, Mila Jordan Kratzke, into the world on December 14, 2020. "She has brought such warmth and joy to our lives during these challenging times," they share.



Tara F. Brenner '17 and Ian M. Kratzke '17 with daughter Mila Jordan



Joseph A. DeMari '17

Joseph A. DeMari, of Columbus, OH, has matched into a gynecologic oncology fellowship at Wake Forest for 2021, after graduating from obstetrics and gynecology residency at Ohio State.

2018

Peter J. Christiano, of Philadelphia, PA, matched at the West Virginia University primary care sports medicine fellowship.

2019

Eric I. Zabriskie, of Nashville, TN, and his wife, Melissa, celebrated the birth of their baby boy on February 9.

Residents

Jeffrey A. Greenberg, of Carmel, IN, was elected to the presidential line for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. He is currently president elect and will serve as president beginning in September 2021. He will preside over the annual meeting in Boston in September 2022.

Jeffrey J. Kirshner, of Fayetteville, NY, was named a Fellow of American Society of Clinical Oncology and was the recipient of the 2020 Richard L. Schilsky Cancer and Leukemia Group B Achievement Award. The award acknowledges the significant contributions of an individual to cooperative group research. He is principal investigator of Hematology Oncology Associates of Central New York and director of research for the HOACNY community clinical oncology program in New York. He also serves as chair of the alliance data and safety monitoring board and is a member of the alliance breast committee, alliance symptom intervention committee, and alliance community oncology committee.

Stuart Trust, of Syracuse, marks half a century at Upstate this year, having arrived as a first-year resident in 1971. "Although I retired after 43 years in private practice as a pediatrician, I still volunteer teaching second-year medical students FRM2 (Foundations of Reasoning in Medicine) as an Emeritus Professor. My three-year-old project designed to encourage disadvantaged and minority students to consider a career in the health care field, with hospital tours and workshops, is temporarily on hold due to COVID-19, but will resume in the fall."

Stephanie E. Weiss, of Warminster, MA, is professor of radiation oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center and is chief of neurologic oncology and residency director. "Sara Grethlein is still my model physician," she writes.

MPH

Summer M. Barrows, of Syracuse, was recently promoted to infection preventionist for a local nursing home.

I N M E M O R I A M

1948

JAIME PARIS-ROCA, of Borrego Springs, CA, died May 24, 2010.

1952

MARTIN F. STURMAN, of Media, PA, died November 6, 2020, a few weeks before his 94th birthday. Dr. Sturman was survived by his wife, Julie; his daughter, Marianne; son Henry; stepsons Steven and Peter; and five grandchildren.

1953

ROBERT H. BAYSINGER, of Twin City, ID, died on December 2, 2020. Dr. Baysinger practiced family medicine in Watertown, NY, and was retired from Kodak. He was survived by sons William, Kyle, and Hartley Jr.; his daughters, Cynthia and Carol; six grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

DOUGLAS H. SMITH, of Manchester, CT, died March 28, 2017. Dr. Smith moved to Baltimore, MD, and completed his internship at University Hospital in 1954. He completed his residency in anesthesiology in 1957 and served as an instructor in anesthesia before entering the U.S. Army Medical Corps at Fort Belvoir as chief of anesthesia. In 1959, he was offered a position at Manchester Memorial Hospital. He was a board-certified anesthesiologist until he retired in 1993. He served as chief of anesthesia from 1983 to 1988 and was president of the medical staff at MMH from 1985 to 1987. Smith was survived by his daughter, Cynthia; sons Bradley and Jeffrey; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1954

BERTRAM S. MERSEREAU, of DeWitt, NY, died April 7, 2020. Dr. Mersereau was a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association in recognition of his significant contributions to psychiatry. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a psychiatrist caring for soldiers and military personnel in Landstuhl, Germany. He was director of psychiatric services at Community General Hospital

and held other positions as a practicing psychiatrist in the Syracuse area. He finished his career caring for patients at Hutchings Psychiatric Center in Syracuse. Mersereau was survived by his sons, Stephen and Bradford; daughter Julie; eight grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

1955

CHARLES BRENT OLMSTEAD, of Elmira, NY, died January 21. Dr. Olmstead returned to Elmira in 1962 after medical school and a two-year stint in the service as a captain in the Air Force Medical Corps, and a dermatology residency and faculty position at the University of Buffalo Medical School. He established a private dermatology practice and served the Southern Tier community as a highly respected member of the medical establishment for 35 years. He concurrently consulted at the Bath VA Hospital from 1968 to 2013. He received a distinguished service award from the American Academy of Dermatology as well as the American Medical Association's Physicians Recognition Award. Olmstead was survived by his wife, Martha; daughters Anne and Amy; and one grandson.

1959

RAYMOND ROSEN, of Monterey, CA, died October 27, 2020. Dr. Rosen completed an internship in Cleveland, OH, and a surgical residency in Buffalo, NY. He served in the military in the Army Medical Corps at Ft. Jackson, SC. He had a private practice in Atlanta, GA. Rosen then moved to Long Beach, CA, in 1970. He worked the remainder of his career as a general/pediatric surgeon at Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower, CA. He retired after 36 years as a surgeon in 1995. Rosen was survived by his children, Loren, Mark, Jeff, Suzanne, Bradley and Gregory; and eight grandchildren.

1963

JOHN G. BARTLETT, of Tupelo, MS, died January 19. Dr. Bartlett served during the Vietnam War with the Army Medical Corps, and from 1965 to 1967, was assigned to the Third Field Hospital in Saigon, where he attained the rank of

captain. While serving in Vietnam, he became interested in infectious diseases and a senior physician at the field hospital urged him to pursue that field study at UCLA, which he did. He worked at a Veterans Affairs Hospital before joining the UCLA faculty. He held academic positions at UCLA, Tufts, and John Hopkins University, where he served as the infectious disease division chief from 1980 to 2006. Bartlett was a pioneer in the field of HIV/AIDS treatment and study. He was renowned for his discovery of what he termed "the bug," *Clostridium Difficile* or C-Diff. He also specialized in researching and treating community-acquired pneumonia, antimicrobial resistance, anaerobic infections, and bioterrorism. In 1984, he and his colleague, Dr. B. Frank Polk, co-founded the country's second HIV/AIDS clinic at the John Hopkins Hospital, which has become one of the world's preeminent HIV/AIDS treatment centers. In 2017, Hopkins Hospital opened the John G. Bartlett Specialty Practice to treat patients with HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases. He retired to Tupelo in 2014, where he continued his prodigious work, authoring research papers and giving speeches. Bartlett was survived by his sons, Scott, and Josh; daughters Tracy and Valerie; and eight grandchildren.

1965

HAROLD L. EICHLER, of Boca Raton, FL, died October 2, 2020. Dr. Eichler practiced internal medicine and cardiovascular disease for 45 years. He was on medical staff of Maimonides Hospital and Lutheran Medical Center, two of the largest hospitals in Brooklyn. Eichler was survived by his wife, Margaret, and other family.

CLIFFORD O. STRANBURG, of Beaverton, OR, died January 16. Dr. Stranburg enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 and served as a sonar man from 1954 to 1957, primarily on the USS Dashiell. He attended Allegheny College in Meadesville, PA, and graduated in 1961. He was an athlete and lettered in football, basketball, and baseball and participated in the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp. He was awarded the Allegheny College Athlete of the Year and Distinguished Military Graduate of 1961 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

After medical school, he served his residency at Hennepin County Hospital in Minnesota. From 1970-1971 he attained specialty designation and served residency in urology at Oregon Health and Science University. Stranburg founded and practiced medicine at the Northwest Urological Clinic in Portland and McMinnville from 1971 until 2013. Stranburg was survived by his wife, Julie; his stepson's family: Robert, Chanly and Cody George; and his stepbrother, Robert Shirley and family.

1971

WILLIAM H. NAUEN, of Syracuse, NY, died January 22. Dr. Nauen served his medical internship in Albany and practiced medicine for two years in the Indian Health Service in Tishomingo, OK. He then returned to Syracuse and completed a family practice residency at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he was on the teaching faculty for many years. He worked at Central Square Health Center as a family physician, where he set bones and stitched wounds. He cared for children and the elderly, delivered babies, and staffed emergency rooms. Nauen was survived by his wife, Sharon; sons David, Kevin and Daniel; daughter Jacquelyn; and four grandchildren.

1979

AUBREY O. LEWIS, of Merrick, NY, died January 31. Dr. Lewis was born in Georgetown, Guyana, in 1947. He emigrated to the United States in 1969 on a student visa and joined the Army in 1970. He opened his Merrick practice following a residency at the Nassau County Medical Center. Lewis was the founder of the Community Wellness Center in Hempstead, a free medical clinic. He also founded the Coalition for Community Well Being, a group made up of doctors, medical personnel and lawyers on the island. The group conducted free health fairs for years throughout Long Island and Queens. The clinics were credited for properly diagnosing countless of mostly low-income people of color, with conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes. Lewis was survived by his children, Andrea, Kevin and Andrew; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and 13 siblings.

1999

MARY E. FOWKES, of Katonah, NY, died November 15, 2020. Dr. Fowkes received her MD and PhD degrees at Upstate Medical University in 1999. She trained in Boston at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center of Harvard University and continued her career in New York City, where she was board certified in neuropathology and forensic pathology. She became professor of pathology and director of neuropathology and autopsy services at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Fowkes was also a Governor of the College of American Pathologists, former president of the New York State Society of Pathologists, and a distinguished graduate and adjunct professor in environmental and forest biology at SUNY-ESF. She was in her element leading new research on COVID-19 and advocating for scientific discovery through autopsies. Fowkes was survived by her son, Derek; daughter Jacquelyn; mother Isabel; and brothers John and Mark.

Residents

THEODORE G. DALAKOS, of Jamesville, NY, died November 19, 2020. Dr. Dalakos attended the military medical school in Thessalonika, Greece, and finished at the University of Athens Medical School. After his internship in Patras, Greece, he went to Glasgow Royal Infirmary to complete a residency in endocrinology. He then visited the United States and was offered a fellowship at Upstate Medical University under Dr. Streeten. He spent seven years in clinical and research studies and then moved to private practice at Community General Hospital, where he worked until his retirement in 2005. Dalakos was survived by his wife, Toni; sons George and Anthony; daughter Joanna; and six grandchildren.

AMBROSE KRUPCZAK, of Amsterdam, NY, died November 7, 2020. Dr. Krupczak graduated from Albany Medical College with a doctor of medicine in 1961. In 1962, he moved to Canajoharie, NY, where he practiced family medicine and surgery until 1969. He completed his residency in psychiatry from Upstate Medical University from 1969 to 1972, and subsequently became clinical assis-

tant professor of psychiatry from 1972 to 1975. In 1975, he returned to his hometown of Amsterdam, where he practiced psychiatry until 1985. He was employed by the New York State Worker's Compensation board as an examining physician for 11 years prior to his retirement in 1998. Krupczak was survived by his daughter, Mamie; and his sister, Mary Anne.

STANLEY E. MATYSZEWSKI, of Cheshire, CT, died December 1, 2020. Dr. Matyszewski interned at Upstate Medical University in 1963. He proudly served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps as captain and chief of preventative medicine at Fort Bliss, TX, from 1963 to 1965. After his military service, he returned to the Yale University School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Hospital, where he served his residency in surgery and anesthesiology and as a post-doctoral fellow in the department of surgery, anesthesiology. In 1970, he was appointed assistant professor in the department of surgery, anesthesiology. He practiced anesthesia for 32 years at both Waterbury Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury. He served as chairman of the Anesthesia Department for his final 18 years of work. He was survived by his wife, Maureen; daughter Catherine; sons Christopher and Michael; and seven grandchildren.

HAROLD O. SHAPIRO, of Vernon, CT, died April 18, 2016. Dr. Shapiro earned his doctorate in medicine at the University of Alabama in 1964. He completed his pediatric residency at the Upstate Medical University in 1966. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserve after he completed his medical degree. Shapiro was a beloved pediatrician in Vernon for more than 46 years. He was a board-certified pediatrician and served as chief of pediatrics at Rockville General Hospital and Manchester Memorial Hospital. He also served as assistant state medical examiner for Tolland County from 1974 to 1979. Shapiro was survived by his wife, Ellen; daughters Cheri and Brenda; and two granddaughters.

NEIL S. STEWART, of Carlisle, PA, died November 24, 2020. Dr. Stewart received his medical degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He completed his graduate medical training at Delaware Hospital in Wilmington, DE, and at Upstate Medical University. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and Army Reserves for a number of years. He began his own practice in

IN MEMORIAM

Camillus, NY, and was later a founding partner of Pediatric Associates. He also served as clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Upstate Medical University, where he helped to create a nurse practitioner program. In 1990, he received the President's Award for Voluntary Faculty Service. Stewart was survived by his wife, Elizabeth; daughters Gwyneth, Bronwyn, and Rhyssa; sons A. Bruce, David, and Allen; 11 grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

EDWARD TAFT SWIRE, of Clifton Park, NY, died January 25. After completing his internship and residency, he specialized in internal medicine and gastroenterology, completing a fellowship at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He served his country as a captain in the U.S. Air Force and chief of gastroenterology at Westover AFB Regional Hospital in Chicopee, MA. Swire practiced internal medicine and gastroenterology in Washington, DC, and Lansdale, PA. He had a private practice in Troy, which he continued to operate until 2001. He was an attending physician at Samaritan and St. Mary's Hospital. Swire was survived by his wife, Kim; sons Michael and Geoffrey; and four grandchildren.

YASSER S. ZIKRY, of Jamesville, NY, died February 2.

Emeritus Faculty

FREDERICK B. PARKER, JR., of Dewitt, NY, died December 5, 2020. Dr. Parker received his BA from the University of Rochester in 1958 and his MD from the University of Rochester Medical School in 1962. From 1968 to 1970, he served as chief of surgical services and consultant in general surgery at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, WA. He then returned to Albany Medical Center to finish his surgical residency and cardiothoracic fellowship. He moved to Syracuse in 1971, where he was appointed assistant professor of surgery at Upstate Medical University. In 1976, he was appointed chief of the division of cardiothoracic surgery, and in 1981, was named professor of surgery. In 1990, he became chair of the Department of

Surgery and remained until his retirement in 2001, when he was named Emeritus Professor of Surgery. Parker taught medical students, always inquiring about their hometowns and expressing great interest in getting to know them. He trained generations of surgery residents and dozens of cardiothoracic surgeons, who today practice to the highest standards of excellence and patient care around the world, carrying on his legacy. Parker was survived by his wife, Virginia; daughter Amy; son Matthew and two grandchildren.

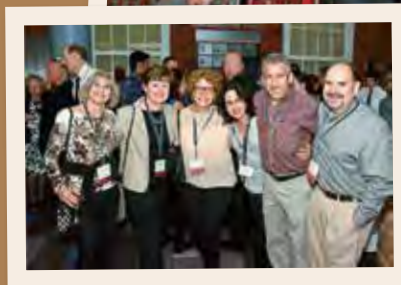
SPYROS D. KITROMILIS, of Syracuse, NY, died January 5. Dr. Kitromilis graduated from Athens University in Athens, Greece. He finished his internship and completed his education at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven, CT, for his residency in obstetrics and gynecology in 1963. He moved to Syracuse, where he was a physician for Syracuse Memorial Hospital (Crouse). He started his private practice in 1968, which brought him great happiness delivering babies over 48 years. He was Professor Emeritus for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He enjoyed teaching new physicians special techniques during surgery and for breach deliveries. He retired in 2006. Kitromilis was survived by his wife, Joan; daughter Maria; son Demetri; and two grandchildren.

HAROLD SMULYAN, of Syracuse, NY, died December 1, 2020. Dr. Smulyan received his medical degree from the University of Buffalo in 1953. He completed his internship and residency at Upstate Medical University and joined the faculty as an assistant instructor of medicine in 1959. In his 54 years at Upstate, he was a professor of medicine, an attending physician, chief of cardiology, and director of the cardiology fellowship training program. He also served as chief of cardiology at the Veteran Administration Hospital from 1977 to 1986 and president of the New York State chapter of the American College of Cardiology from 1990-1991. In all of these roles he was known for his deep knowledge, research and teaching abilities, and his kindness, care, and mentorship. Smulyan retired in 2013 and continued to research, write, teach, and attend conferences and rounds until a

few months before he died. His research focused on the importance of effective measurement of systolic hypertension, a cardiovascular risk factor that affects the aging. He carried out projects with colleagues and fellows at Upstate, and as the result of research sabbaticals, with Michel Safar and his research group in Paris and colleagues at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, England. Smulyan was survived by his wife, Ruth; daughters Susan, Lisa, and Betsy; four grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Upstate Medical Alumni
Reunion
Celebration | Tradition | Connection

CLASSES ENDING IN 0 AND 5 & CLASSES ENDING IN 1 AND 6
September 24–25, 2021



medalumni.upstate.edu/reunion

UPSTATE MEDICAL ALUMNI FOUNDATION

SUNY Upstate Medical University
Setnor Academic Building, Suite 1510
750 E. Adams St.
Syracuse, New York 13210

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SYRACUSE NY
PERMIT #994

Many Thanks



"My medical education at Upstate provided the groundwork for a successful, fulfilling career as a physician and a comfortable life for my family and me. My bequest to the Medical Alumni Foundation expresses my gratitude for providing this opportunity and will help provide similar opportunity for future Upstate medical students."

—K. BRUCE SIMMONS, MD '79

