

UPSTATE MEDICAL  
**Alumni** JOURNAL

SPRING 2022 PUBLISHED BY UPSTATE MEDICAL ALUMNI FOUNDATION

# FROM UPSTATE TO THE CONGO

**Sister Mary Felice, MD '90,  
cares for the poorest of the poor**



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# UPSTATE MEDICAL Alumni JOURNAL

### SPRING 2022 ISSUE

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### ON THE COVER:

Homes on the river in remote Lukolela, Democratic Republic of Congo, where Sister Mary Felice, MD '90, serves as medical director of St. Vincent the Servant General Reference Hospital.

### CORRECTION:

In the Winter 2021 issue, a reference to Leslie Kohman, MD, failed to list her as HS '85.

## Upstate Medical University Seeks Approval to Acquire Crouse Health

**IN APRIL, SUNY UPSTATE** Medical University announced its intention to acquire Crouse Health, a plan to bring the two healthcare systems together to enhance care delivery to Central New Yorkers.

The proposed combination includes all of Crouse Hospitals' inpatient and outpatient services, which will be renamed Upstate Crouse Hospital. Crouse Medical Practice will remain intact and will be branded as Upstate Crouse Medical Practice.

The combined entity will have more than 13,000 employees, 1,200 licensed inpatient hospital beds and offer more than 70 specialties. Upstate said the deal is not expected to result in any job cuts and employees at both hospitals will continue to be represented by the same unions.

Crouse, which has 3,200 employees, has been operating in Syracuse for 135 years. It delivers more than 3,800 babies annually, more than any other hospital in the region. It cares for high-risk obstetric patients referred by smaller hospitals throughout the region. It also operates a neonatal intensive care unit.

Upstate Medical University is the region's largest employer with nearly 11,000 employees. Its hospital system is known for specialized services such as burn and trauma care, cancer care, stroke care, and pediatric services provided through the Golisano Children's Hospital.

Upstate is part of the State University of New York. It has 1,600 students studying medicine, nursing and other health professions. Upstate also conducts more than \$40 million in funded research annually.

As neighbors on the University Hill, Upstate and Crouse have long discussed ways to more closely align to improve care for the community and region. During the pandemic, Upstate and Crouse worked collaboratively to meet the challenges created by COVID-19.

"There has been a natural progression in our relationship over the years. Between the two organizations, there are many clinical services that complement each other. Formalizing the relationship with Crouse—and making it a key component of our University Hospital system—would allow these services to flourish," says Robert Corona, DO, CEO of Upstate University Hospital.

"Discussions between Crouse and Upstate have always revolved around creating the best environment possible for patients, medical professionals



Crouse Hospital and Upstate Medical University are longtime neighbors on University Hill.

and dedicated staff," adds Patrick A. Mannion, Crouse Health board chair. "The Board determined that integration with a local partner was the best option for Crouse, and given our history, Upstate was the preferred choice, one that the community will embrace."

Mantosh Dewan, MD, president of Upstate, believes the combined expertise will benefit patient care while preserving jobs and the economic health of the region. "Building upon our combined strengths will be a significant step in shaping the future growth of the region's only academic medical center as we expand educational and training opportunities for the medical professionals of tomorrow," he says. "Moving forward, our exceptional medical staffs will continue to provide great value to our community as we work together to enhance patient care for our region."

Both institutions are currently engaged in obtaining regulatory approvals, including a Certificate of Need from the New York State Department of Health, which is expected to take several months. During this time, the two institutions will remain independent, and their respective focus will continue to be on patients, employees, medical staff, faculty, and students.

## Lawrence Chin Named to Administrative Board of AAMC Council of Deans

**LAWRENCE CHIN, MD**, dean of the Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine at Upstate Medical University, has been named to the administrative board of the Council of Deans for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

The Council of Deans (COD) is the only organization of its kind, convening deans of the 172 AAMC member medical schools in the U.S. and Canada to address issues affecting academic medicine and develop strategies to achieve excellence in medical education, research, and patient care.

The 14-member administrative board oversees and manages the affairs of the council. Chin will serve on the board through 2024.



Lawrence Chin, MD

## Upstate Students Host Health Justice Conference

Upstate Medical University students hosted the third annual Health Justice Conference, "Avenues for Advocacy: Investing in our Future," held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The annual conference focuses on ways Upstate students and healthcare professionals can serve as social advocates both personally and professionally.

This year's conference, held virtually due to COVID-19, emphasized ways technology can be utilized for advocacy and innovation,

especially in the context of the pandemic. Keynote speaker Heather Irobunda, MD, an obstetrician-gynecologist practicing at NYC Health and Hospitals shared how social media can allow healthcare providers to put out information in a way that makes it free and more accessible to everyone.

The conference also included a demonstration by Sunny Aslam, MD, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Upstate, of using online polling to find out what

an audience knows, or thinks it knows, so that information can be tailored to better inform.

This year's conference was co-chaired by medical students Nadia Debick '24, Egypt Vlymen-Williams '25, and Tianfang "Alan" He '24.

Although the event was held virtually, all presentations were done live. "It was crucial to have that live interaction, back and forth," Debick says. "Some great ideas came out of that."



Nadia Debick '24



Egypt Vlymen-Williams '25



Tianfang "Alan" He '24

## Stephen Thomas Awarded Liberty Medal

Stephen Thomas, MD, Upstate Medical University professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology and director of the Institute for Global Health and Translational Science, has been recognized with the Liberty Medal—the highest civilian honor awarded by the New York State Senate. The award was given for Dr. Thomas’s work related to the COVID pandemic.

The award was announced from the Senate floor by state Senator John Mannion on January 13. “[Dr. Thomas] is at the forefront of critical advancements related to both vaccine development and large-scale testing implementation,” Mannion said. “Make no mistake, the work of Dr. Thomas and his team has saved untold millions of lives around the world through safe and effective vaccination. There are not enough words to express our gratitude to him.”

Thomas also has become one of the nation’s leading and most authoritative voices regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, offering his perspective of the pandemic in both local and national media, updating the public on vaccines, masking, treatments, and clinical trials since the pandemic was declared a global outbreak in March 2020.

In November 2020, Thomas was tapped as lead principal investigator for the world-wide Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine trial and Upstate became one of the study’s global phase 3 vaccine trial locations. Thomas also led the team coordinating the University’s initial response to the pandemic in March 2020.



Stephen Thomas, MD



### CARING FOR THE CAREGIVERS.

Upstate’s Gold Humanism Society and Alpha Omega Alpha teamed up to sponsor the first Wellness Fair for students on March 11 in the Campus Activities Building. Featuring events including yoga, art therapy, massage, and dog therapy, the Wellness Fair aimed to help students explore what wellness means on a physical, emotional, and mental level, and to leave relaxed and energized to tackle the everyday stresses that come with being a medical trainee.

## Upstate Helps Develop Urban Family Medicine Residency

**UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY** is partnering with the Syracuse Community Health Center (SCHC) to develop an Urban Family Medicine Residency Program. The new residency program aims to increase the number of primary care providers trained to support the needs of urban patients and to attract diverse residents, especially those from traditionally underrepresented groups.

The SCHC, a state-licensed Diagnostic and Treatment Center serving more than 30,000 patients in the Greater Syracuse area, received a grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that is making the collaborative program possible.

The program will be developed in conjunction with Upstate's Department of Family Medicine and the first class of residents will begin the program in July 2024.

"It is critical that we attract, support, and develop a diverse group of primary care providers that understand the unique needs of urban communities and this program will focus on that challenge," says Mark Hall, president and chief executive officer at Syracuse Community Health Center. "We are extremely grateful for this grant and are very enthusiastic about our

partnership with Upstate Medical University to develop this very unique program."

The development of the program requires creating a comprehensive curriculum focused on urban medicine and obtaining ACGME accreditation.

"SCHC has a proven commitment to providing complex and necessary care for the entire Central New York community, as well as the underserved inner city," says Mantosh Dewan, MD, president of Upstate Medical University. "Upstate's mission is to improve the health of the communities we serve through biomedical research, patient care, and education. This partnership with SCHC will create an excellent training opportunity for family medicine residents and further Upstate's commitment to serve our inner-city community."

Syracuse Community Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). As a FQHC, it is a non-profit community-based health center dedicated to providing comprehensive primary care, dental, and mental health services to area residents, especially to those who might have limited access to health care.



The Central New York Biotech Accelerator at Upstate Medical University

## Upstate's CNYBAC Wins \$625,000 in State Funding

The Central New York Biotech Accelerator (CNYBAC) at Upstate Medical University has been awarded \$625,000 renewal of funding as a NYS Certified Business Incubator.

According to Kathi Durdon, CNYBAC executive director, the funding renewal will continue to support innovation programming including the regional NYSTAR partner events, the NEXT Innovation Conference and Manufacturing Workshop, as well as CNYBAC's Virtual Concept to Commercialization Monthly Series.

Most importantly, the funding supports the highly successful CNYBAC Medical Device Innovation Challenge (MDIC), an intensive mentorship program supporting early-stage innovation, which has graduated 26 teams to date. The funding

also provides stipends to the Innovation Law Center at Syracuse University, whose students perform commercialization research for MDIC teams and due diligence reporting of applications, and will support the purchase of equipment and supplies for CNYBAC client shared use, and for salary support to manage programming.

The CNYBAC, a 52,000-square-foot building, includes state-of-the-art wet labs, shared equipment, a TED-enabled 200-seat theater, and the National Grid Creation Garage with 3D-printing hardware. CNYBAC staff promote matching assistance to Upstate's experts, facilities, and equipment and to an expansive innovation ecosystem including other NYSTAR assets.

## It's a Match!

**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS**, members of the Upstate community were able to gather for a communal Match Day celebration. At noon on March 18, 2022, fourth-year students from Upstate Medical University's Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine joined graduating medical students from across the country in learning where they will spend their residency training in their chosen specialty. One hundred percent of the Class of 2022 matched in the process.

### AT UPSTATE:

**52 percent (78)** of students will enter primary care specialties including family medicine, psychiatry, internal medicine, pediatrics, and Ob/Gyn.

**47 percent** of students will remain in New York state: 12 for preliminary positions and 59 for full residency training.

**24** students will remain at Upstate Medical University: seven for preliminary positions and 17 for full residency training.

**Three** students will be at St. Joseph's Hospital Health, two for transitional years and one for full residency.

**Four** students matched with the U.S. Armed Forces.





William F. Paolo Jr., MD

## William Paolo Named Chair of Emergency Medicine

**W**illiam F. Paolo Jr., MD, associate professor of emergency medicine and public health and preventative medicine, was named chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine in November. Paolo served as interim chair of Emergency Medicine since March 2021.

"Dr. Paolo is the right leader for this unprecedented time in medicine," said Lawrence S. Chin, MD, dean of the Norton College of Medicine. "He has led this busy department with great aplomb through the challenges of the pandemic. Upstate is fortunate to have his continued leadership at this time."

Paolo joined Upstate as assistant professor in 2009 and became associate professor (with tenure) in 2015. He has numerous peer-reviewed publications and received the President's Teaching Award and Alpha Omega Alpha teacher of the year honor. He has served

as residency program director for emergency medicine since 2012.

Paolo has played an integral role in developing the medical school curriculum at Upstate. He was the designer and director for the Foundations in Clinical Reasoning course for first- and second-year medical students as well as the March into Residency course for fourth-year students. His university service includes membership on the Upstate Graduate Medical Education committee, Residency Administration Committee, and Upstate Trauma Committee, among others.

Paolo earned his medical degree with distinction in infectious disease research from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He did his residency in Emergency Medicine at NYU/Bellevue from 2005 to 2008 and served as chief resident in 2009.



David Lehmann, MD, PharmD

## Onondaga County Medical Society Honors Three From Upstate Community

**THE ONONDAGA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY** has honored three members of the Upstate Medical University community with its most significant awards for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**David Lehmann, MD, PharmD**, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, received the Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Lehmann, along with Mia Ruiz-Salvador, created Housecalls for the Homeless in 2018. This street medicine program provides basic medical, psychiatric, and addiction care services for men and women experiencing homelessness in Syracuse and Onondaga County, both to those residing at area shelters, and through In My Father's Kitchen, a mobile program providing food and basic necessities for individuals living outdoors. Knowing that the COVID-19 health crisis could quickly spread in shelters and onto the streets, Lehmann prioritized symptom screenings and provided guidance maintaining sterile environments in the shelters, which created a new demand for patient care.

Lehmann's service work is extensive. In 2016, he traveled to Haiti as a member of an International Medical Relief (IMR)

team following the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew that left nearly 176,000 people living in shelters. He also traveled with IMR in 2017 to Puerto Rico, and in 2019 to the Bahamas to provide medical support in the wake of Hurricane Maria, and Dorian, respectively.

**Stephen J. Thomas, MD**, received the Onondaga County Medical Society's Adeline Fagan MD Physician Service to the Community Award.

Dr. Thomas is the interim chair of microbiology and immunology and director of the Institute for Global and Translational Science at Upstate Medical University. He is also one of the nation's leading and most authoritative voices regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. In November 2020, he was named coordinating principal investigator for the world-wide Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine trial. Over the past five years, Dr. Thomas and his team have significantly

expanded the number of clinical trials Upstate offers aimed at addressing significant and relevant health problems from COVID to sepsis to opioid addiction.

Medical student **Elana Sitnik '24** received the Jerry Hoffman Advocacy Award.

Sitnik was honored in part for her work serving as clinic coordinator for Upstate's mobile vaccine clinic. The mobile vaccine clinics offered COVID-19 vaccines to Syracuse residents who might otherwise have trouble accessing the shot. A team of medical students, mentored by Sunny Aslam, MD, Upstate associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, approached homeless people, visited shelters, and went door-to-door in some of the city's poorest and most vulnerable neighborhoods from May until mid-August.



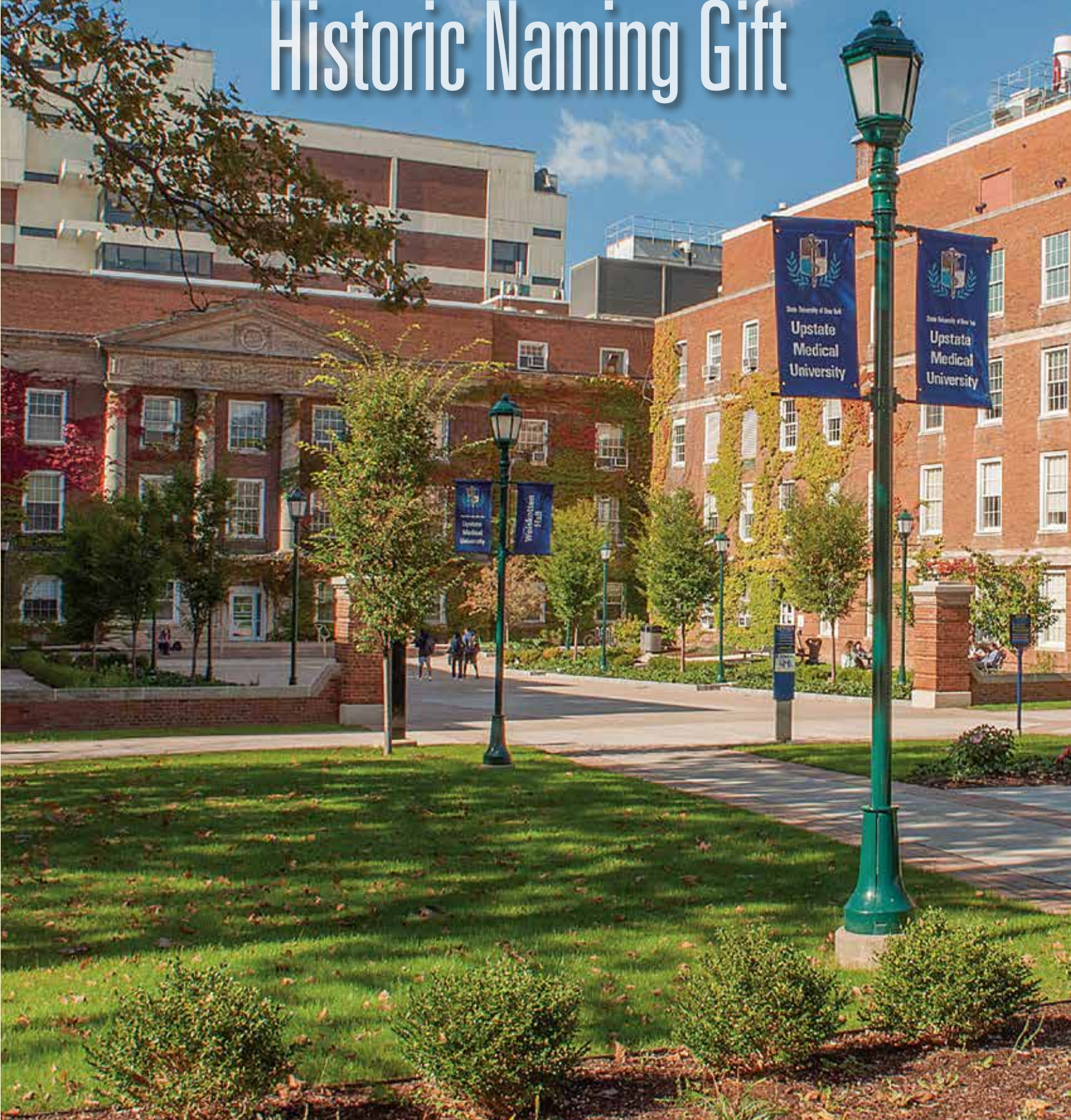
Stephen J. Thomas, MD



Elana Sitnik '24



# College of Medicine Receives Historic Naming Gift



# We Are Now Known as the Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine

AT UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

**W**hen Alan Norton, MD '66, was a medical student at Upstate in the 1960s, he was singularly focused on becoming an ophthalmologist. His medical education and research experience led to prestigious post-graduate training opportunities, which in turn led to a successful and fulfilling 25-year career as a retinal specialist in Los Angeles.

Dr. Norton was always mindful that it was his experience at Upstate and in Syracuse that provided the launching pad for that career and the life it provided he and his wife, Marlene.

Fifty-five years after his medical school graduation, Dr. and Mrs. Norton have made a \$25-million estate gift to benefit Upstate Medical University's College of Medicine. In recognition, the college will now be known as the Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine at Upstate Medical University.

"I am grateful for the quality education that I received from the SUNY Upstate Medical University," says Norton. "Our estate gift to the Upstate College of Medicine is to demonstrate our appreciation and help the college to continue its excellence in teaching and innovation."



First-year medical students Vanessa Chicas '25 and Mark Lutz '25 celebrate the naming of the Norton College of Medicine.

The Norton's gift is the largest in the history of the College of Medicine and has the potential to transform the institution, nearly doubling the current endowment. "The Norton's gift will elevate the college's stature and set us on a solid future of sustained excellence for years to come," says Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD. "We are extremely grateful for the Norton's generosity. This remarkable gift will help us retain and develop outstanding faculty and teaching to benefit our students."

To receive a \$25 million gift would be a dream for any state medical school, where gifts of this size are rare. For Lawrence Chin, MD, dean of the Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine, the funds will make long-term goals a reality.

"A gift of this size is unprecedented, and we have no shortage of needs," says Dr. Chin.

Nonetheless, the top priority and focus for the new funding will be faculty expansion and development. "We have a relatively large student class—175 each year—with a relatively small teaching faculty," says Chin.

Demand for medical education is at a high and there is tremendous need for physicians throughout the state, particularly in Central New York. At this time, faculty size is a limiting factor to considering class expansion.

Regardless of expansion, Chin is focused on recruiting more faculty and enticing existing faculty to devote more time to teaching. "Many of our faculty members are also providing patient care and are already overtaxed in terms of being able to see patients in a timely manner. Asking them to spend more time teaching students is an additional demand on their time and we need to incentivize that, either through compensating them adequately or providing access to Upstate research facilities," he says. "We want to entice our most esteemed physicians to share their knowledge and experience with our students."

A major curricular change in the works is the incorporation of clinical experiences

“... it was really Upstate that gave me the opportunity to become a physician and for any success I may have enjoyed. I felt I owed something for the excellent education I received.”

— ALAN NORTON, MD '66

beginning in the first year of study. "We want students learning from working physicians and interacting with real patients right from the start," says Chin. "We want to give students the understanding of what it means to be a physician, to start learning some skills—interviewing patients, doing exams, learning how to talk to families and have difficult conversations. These are things you can't learn from a book and are hard to learn from a simulation. You have to be in a real clinical environment."

Doing that will necessitate an expansion of Upstate's network of clinical faculty, and that's another piece that will be supported by the Norton gift. "We want to train our clinical faculty members

College of Medicine  
Dean Larry Chin talks  
with medical students  
outside Weiskotten Hall.



to be great educators,” says Chin. “Knowing how to teach a student clinical skills, for instance, or to offer constructive feedback, those are not things that you’re taught in medical school or residency. We learn everything about being a good doctor, but we don’t learn about being good teachers.”

Another area for faculty development is diversity and inclusion. “Working effectively with diverse patients is a skill that not all physicians have,” says Chin. “At the Norton College of Medicine, a core value is to train our physicians to understand diversity, be sensitive to unconscious bias, and learn about health inequity in our community. That kind of education and training is important not only for students, but also for the faculty, so we have to devote resources to that.”

Chin says that in addition to funding faculty initiatives, the Norton gift helps elevate the school as a whole. “Receiving a naming gift from an alumnus who has had a distinguished medical career demonstrates the benefit and the impact that an Upstate education can have,” he says. “To have a former student give back in this manner is very validating that our students and alumni really make a difference in the world. I’m very excited and proud to be the first dean associated with the Norton College of Medicine.”

Alan Norton remembers his interview at Upstate Medical University clearly. As an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, he’d done research in optics, which prompted his desire to attend medical school to become an ophthalmologist.

While visiting Upstate, Norton met a biochemist named Myron Brin, PhD, who agreed to take Norton on as a research assistant. “That was the main reason I chose Upstate,” he recalls.

But as luck would have it, by the time Norton arrived on campus as a first-year medical student, Brin had left for a position at another university. Undaunted, Norton connected with Alex Bartoff, PhD, a physiologist who was conducting research on electrophysiology of the retina in animals, who became his mentor.

In addition to his medical studies, Norton spent long hours doing fundamental research on particular cells in the retina. “There are 10 layers of cells in the retina, and we could pick out certain cells that we would find by putting very fine electrodes, called micro pipettes, into a single cell and then we could test the response of that cell to different stimuli,” he says.

The work had to be conducted in the dark because any light would stimulate the retinas of his animal subjects. “I spent a lot of hours in the dark,” he recalls.

It served him well. Norton applied to the top ophthalmology residency programs at the time, the Wilmer Institute at Johns Hopkins and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary at Harvard. Norton had already been offered a position at Harvard when he was invited to interview and give a talk at the Wilmer Institute.

It was a memorable trip. First, his plane from Washington, DC, to Baltimore caught on fire and had to return to the airport. Norton summoned the courage to get on another plane and made it on time to give his talk. His audience included the department chair, faculty, and a famous scientist visiting from England who was considered a Nobel Prize candidate. “And here I was a fourth-year medical student giving them a lecture on electrophysiology of the retina,” he says. “Apparently it went well because I was offered a position.”

Prior to residency, Norton applied to the NIH and was awarded a research position at the National Institute for Stroke and Eye, where he spent two years continuing research on the electrophysiology of the retina and published more than a dozen research articles in peer review journals.

Norton’s medical school mentor, Alex Bartoff (left), with his research team in the 1970s





Norton then completed his ophthalmology residency at the Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins University and a fellowship at Harvard University’s Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

A Los Angeles native, Norton returned to California after training to work as a retina specialist in private practice. It was in his first office that he met Marlene, a nurse who specialized in assisting with ophthalmological surgeries, who would become his wife.

Norton enjoyed a long career in private practice, served as a consultant to three area hospitals, and also taught at UCLA’s Stein Eye Institute. He retired in 1997.

**W**hen considering his estate plans, Norton says Upstate rose to the top for a variety of reasons. “First, it was really Upstate that gave me the opportunity to become a physician and for any success I may have enjoyed,” he says. “I felt I owed something for the excellent education I received.”

Second, he wanted to give back to the people of Syracuse. “It may sound strange, but I’ve lived in cities across the country, and I found the people in the Syracuse area to be the nicest, friendliest, most helpful, honest people that I’ve ever been involved with,” he says. “I really had an attachment to them.”

And finally, Norton says he was most impressed with Upstate President Mantosh Dewan and his efforts to elevate the institution despite limited state support. “He’s a very intelligent man who has

**“The Norton’s gift will elevate the college’s stature and set us on a solid future of sustained excellence for years to come. We are extremely grateful for the Norton’s generosity. This remarkable gift will help us retain and develop outstanding faculty and teaching to benefit our students.”**

—MANTOSH DEWAN, MD, UPSTATE PRESIDENT

great plans, even with the odds against him,” says Norton. “My goal is to help him make the College of Medicine the best school possible.”

Those efforts are well underway. The Norton College of Medicine is in the midst of implementing a number of exciting programmatic changes, beginning with the addition of an optional three-year medical school curriculum for students who choose to stay at Upstate for residency, a program that received LCME approval in March. “Student debt is at an all-time high,” says Chin. “Currently, students interview for residency programs and take away-rotations and electives in their fourth year but don’t have many requirements otherwise,” he says. “By offering a three-year curriculum, we can give students the option to expedite their training

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“The Norton’s gift will forever have a positive influence on the future success of our College of Medicine. I personally add my sincerest thanks to Alan and Marlene for choosing Upstate for this significant gift.”

—PAUL NORCROSS, MEDICAL ALUMNI FOUNDATION

and save a year of tuition expense. At the same time, we hope to increase the pipeline of physicians into Central New York because people often stay to practice in communities where they train.”

Another initiative is increasing the number of dual degree programs beyond the current MD/MPH and MD/PhD options. The school is currently recruiting for a new MD/MBA program, which will be run jointly with the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. The five-year program will begin with a dedicated year of business school at Whitman, followed by four years of medical school at Upstate, which will include internships related to their business education. “A student might do an administrative internship at University Hospital, for example,” says Chin, who hopes additional joint degree programs will follow.

All of these new programs will require administrative and staff support. “The Norton gift is incredibly generous and will help us achieve our

goals at the faculty level, but that’s really just the start,” says Chin. “It would be a mistake for alumni to think that we don’t need their additional support. There’s plenty of need across the board, and never enough to meet the financial needs of students.”

The Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation is in the midst of the Generation to Generation/Excellence in Medicine Campaign to raise \$15 million for student scholarships. Executive director Paul Norcross hopes the Norton gift serves as an impetus for others to do what they can.

“Alumni can take pride in knowing that their medical college will have the resources to continue to grow in stature, quality, and reputation,” he says. “We continue to seek additional support to ease the burden for individual students as they pursue their career goals and simultaneously ease the physician shortage nationwide.” ■



# DOING MUCH WITH LITTLE



Running a remote hospital in the Congo, Sister Mary Felice, MD '90, helps care for the poorest of the poor.

RENÉE GEARHART LEVY

Sister Mary conducting internal medicine rounds

**S**ister Mary Felice, MD '90, can't tell you the air temperature at her hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo; there is no thermometer. She only knows that it's hot. Often oppressively hot.

Located on the Congo River in the remote town of Lukolela, the St. Vincent the Servant General Reference Hospital is a world apart from developed nations, both geographically and medically. Located 91 miles from the nearest city, most patients travel by boat because roads are often impassible. For many, it is a day-long journey. While they come with varied medical needs, the commonality among patients is their poverty. By Western standards, most are devastatingly poor, living in houses with dirt floors and roofs made of palm branches, with no running water or electricity. Public sanitation is scarce. Hunger is not.

But perspective is important, cautions Sister Mary, who offers dignity to all she serves. "A house with a dirt floor, no running water or electricity is not considered poor here unless it is in poor repair," she says. "To Americans or Europeans, the people seem poor, but here, if you have enough to eat, you

go to school, have basic housing and medical care, it would be insulting to be referred to as poor."

Nonetheless, paying for healthcare is a challenge for most. When a person is sick in a rural area, they go to a local health center staffed by nurses. If their problem is serious, they are referred to the closest of the country's reference hospitals. The health district for St. Vincent the Servant General Reference Hospital spans a geographic area of 7,000-square miles with a population of 176,063, and also draws many patients from outside the district due to the scarcity of hospitals.

"People often delay coming, both because of the cost and because they likely have to travel a long distance," says Sister Mary. "As a result, they tend to arrive to us in an advanced state."

The most common conditions treated are malaria (as well as anemia that is secondary to the rupture of red blood cells caused by malaria), typhoid, tuberculosis, HIV, filariasis, trypanosomiasis, amebiasis, and malnutrition. The hospital is also equipped for basic surgery—appendectomies, hernia operations, cesarean sections, and a significant number of laparotomies and

bowel repairs/resections for bowel perforations secondary to typhoid.

As medical director, Sister Mary has administrative oversight for the hospital, which is operated by the religious order the Daughters of Charity with some support from the Republic of Congo government. As a physician, she is in charge of the internal medicine department and for isolation and psychiatric patients. She also conducts ultrasounds, the only imaging method available at the hospital, which also includes departments of emergency services, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery, and intensive care. A basic lab assists with diagnosing tropical diseases common to the area.

The hospital has six physicians, which include two sisters: Sister Mary and Sister Emilienne, who is Congolese. Being medically understaffed is a given. In 2020, the hospital recorded 8,322 patient visits, 4,962 hospitalizations, 923 major surgeries, and 183 caesareans.

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**“To Americans or Europeans, the people seem poor, but here, if you have enough to eat, you go to school, have basic housing and medical care, it would be insulting to be referred to as poor.”**

To cut costs, nursing staff is kept to a minimum. All patients are required to have a family member present, who is responsible for the patient’s hygiene, laundry, and food needs, often sleeping on the floor.

“Although medical care here is simple, it is amazing how many lives can be saved by focusing on what is essential for a particular population,” says Sister Mary.

**G**rowing up near Binghamton, New York, Sister Mary never imagined a life devoted to God. Always a strong student, her father encouraged her to become a doctor. But she had grown up dancing and her dream was to dance professionally.

She went to SUNY Brockport to major in dance. But something was missing. She was surprised by how much she missed academic challenge. Perhaps her father had been right.

Sister Mary transferred to SUNY Binghamton as a biology major. At the end of four years, she had four-credits of biochemistry remaining. “I didn’t want to go to summer school and then straight into medical school,” she recalls. Instead, she decided to take a gap year to finish biochemistry and take other courses she hadn’t had time for.

It was during that year that an older priest



School children at the nearby school, which is also run by the Daughters of Charity

visited her family’s parish to give a retreat. “To be honest, it’s not something I normally would have attended,” Sister Mary recalls. But she had just been accepted to Upstate and knew her life would soon be consumed by medical school and residency. “I thought perhaps I will never have another chance to do something like this,” she says.

The experience would turn out to be life changing. “The priest made such an impression on me,” she recalls. “In retrospect, I think that he was so given to God that I could see God’s presence in him quite clearly.”

In her own prayers, Sister Mary expressed admiration for the priest. While she didn’t know exactly what it was about his life that touched her so, she knew she wanted the same for herself.

In response, she says she felt God inviting her to do as the priest had—to give him everything by living a religious vocation. “It was a shock really and I’m not sure I welcomed it, but I couldn’t deny how real it seemed and the peace that the idea brought,” she says.

In the subsequent months, Sister Mary faced an internal struggle between her desire to follow the example of that priest and things in the world that attracted her. By the time she entered the Upstate College of Medicine, she knew she intended to become religiously affiliated and aspired to a life of missionary work. She thought internal medicine would provide the most valuable foundation, and simultaneous with her medical study, began to research different religious orders. As a third-year student, she chose the Binghamton track for the opportunity to rotate at Lourdes Hospital, run by the Daughters of Charity.

Sister Mary developed a relationship with the hospital administrator, Sister Margaret Tuley, who became a mentor and arranged for her to do rotations at other Daughters of Charity hospitals. During her primary care internal medicine residency at the University of Rochester, Sister Mary lived with the Daughters of Charity sisters there.





“Although medical care here is simple, it is amazing how many lives can be saved by focusing on what is essential for a particular population.”

After completing residency, she formally joined the order, becoming the group’s only sister in the United States who was also a physician (another joined years later and is still practicing). She spent her postulant year in Bridgeport, Connecticut, then 18 months in seminary. Although she longed to do international mission work, the Daughters of Charity does not allow sisters to work abroad during their first 10 years. Sister Mary returned to Bridgeport, where she worked at St. Vincent’s Hospital for five years in the outreach department and helped run a youth group for inner city kids. She worked the next five years as a hospitalist in Troy, New York, where she helped run another youth group.

**T**he Daughters of Charity has 16,700 Sisters working in 97 countries. Once her 10 years in the United States were complete, Sister Mary requested and was accepted to go to the Missionary Center at their Motherhouse in France to prepare to go out on mission.

She studied French and tropical medicine. While there, she was informed she would be sent to the Congo.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the most populous countries in Africa and one of its poorest. Nearly three in four people live on less than \$1.90 per day, representing one of the largest populations in the world living in extreme poverty.

Despite abundant natural resources—copper, cobalt, diamonds, and gold—the country is characterized by underdevelopment and instability, including well-documented government corruption and internal conflict (illegal mining by armed groups and two decades of warfare).

There are currently 90 Daughters of Charity sisters in the Congo spread among 13 locations. Two thirds are native Congolese and the rest are missionaries from other countries. They communicate both in French and in the local language, Lingala. Sister Mary spent five years in Mbandaka helping to start the Daughters of Charity’s Project DREAM program, which provides testing and integrated, comprehensive care to those who are HIV-positive, with a focus on the treatment of pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

While she had dreamed for years of just this kind of work, she had never imagined the level of

Sister Mary and members of the medical staff pictured with the hospital’s new ultrasound machine, a gift from a family in the United States.



Preparing hospital staff for the possibility of Ebola

poverty she now witnessed. “I could never choose to live in the midst of this degree of poverty, but I believe that this is what God is asking of me and I would try anything He asks,” she says. “I just have to also ask for his grace.”

Sister Mary has been in Lukolela since 2014. There are seven sisters living in the house there, who run the hospital, the school, and social services, all within about a block of each other. Her days are long and full, beginning and ending with prayer. In between, she may have meetings at the local health district (a mile walk); a weekly report on infectious diseases treated; medical education; grant writing to raise funds; and of course, patient care—doing rounds, seeing new patients, and performing ultrasounds. “Life is very adventuresome,” she says. “There can be many problems, but we take them in faith. We never have a boring day.”

By necessity, she also used to perform surgeries—appendectomies, hernia operations, and cesareans, but has not operated in two years due to her administrative demands.

Operating in Lukolela is not like operating in the United States, she says. There is no air conditioning and it’s rare to have a fan. “Also, we don’t have electric suction, and we don’t have a Bovie, so all the vessels have to be tied off. For cesareans and peritonitis, we use suction that someone pumps with their foot,” says Sister Mary. “We lack a lot of the little luxuries, and it makes it longer, harder work when you operate. It’s really quite the workout.”

Satisfaction comes from feeling she is doing God’s will. “The charism (mission) of our community is the service of Christ who is present in the poor. We are close to the poor, and I feel that that makes us closer to Him,” says Sister Mary. “It gives me great joy when we improve conditions in the hospital,” she says. “We have made many improvements, but we still have a long way to go.”

During her time in Lukolela, Sister Mary has helped spearhead several projects, beginning with construction of a new stabilization and intensive care building.

“Our old building was very small with 14 beds not even a meter apart,” she says. “During outbreaks of malaria or typhoid there might be two or three children per bed, many in a coma being transfused. For me, it was intolerable.”

In the new building, constructed in 2019, each patient has a cubicle curtain, “so it’s almost as if each patient has their own little room if you draw the curtain,” says Sister Mary. The following year a separate building was constructed that includes four isolation rooms (including partitioned areas for families to sleep), and rooms for psychiatric patients.

Sister Mary recalls a young boy who came in very sick with monkey pox. He got better, but then other family members who’d come with him became ill, and his younger sister died. “He was in our old isolation rooms that were very small and lacked proper windows,” says Sister Mary. “His little sister should not even have been present, but they came from far with multiple family members sleeping in

the same room. Now we have more spacious rooms, with the small partition for family members.”

Other grants have funded a concrete fence around the hospital grounds, which helps keep out goats, pigs, and thieves, solar lighting, and repainting the entire hospital, a simple improvement that Sister Mary says makes a big impact. “We serve the poor with more dignity because it looks nicer,” she says.

Sister Mary’s current focus is on replacing the hospital’s outdated emergency room building, which was built in 1947 and was in poor condition. “It is too small for the number of patients that we receive, making it more difficult to maintain the level of order and cleanliness necessary for providing quality care and decreasing the transmission of infections, especially during this time when we have to be on the alert for cases of coronavirus or Ebola,” she says.

Through grants and fundraising, the hospital has raised \$60,000, allowing construction to begin. As usual, nothing usable goes to waste. “We saved many things from the old building,” says Sister Mary. “The sheet metal roof will be used to finish a building to raise chickens and to create an outdoor conference room. We also saved 12 windows, which we will use in the new building, and many bricks, a water tank, and gutters, which are being used for various purposes in the hospital and community.”

In the best of conditions, an epidemic is challenging. In Lukolela, that challenge is particularly acute. “We are eight hours on the river from the nearest city. If we don’t get enough IV fluid, or chlorine to disinfect, people can die,” says Sister Mary.

During her tenure, the hospital has experienced epidemics of cholera, measles, and last year, cases of polio. Typhoid and malaria are endemic, but each year there are periods where the number of cases greatly increase.

And while hospitals across the globe have struggled for two years with the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Vincent’s did not see its first COVID patient until January 2022 and had only seen six by mid-February. All but one recovered.

“We’ve increased screening procedures at the door of the hospital,” says Sister Mary. “Anyone with a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, doesn’t follow the normal circuit. We have an outside consultation room to see them.”

The hospital staff has yet to receive vaccinations, but Sister Mary hears they are coming.

Daughters of Charity missionaries are eligible for three-month trips home every three years. Sister Mary was due in 2020, but because of

“There are so many problems that seem like there’s no solution, but I can look back and see how many times I was worried, but God always seemed to come through. I have that experience to carry with me as problems arise.”

COVID-19, did not travel. She is hoping to make it stateside this year to reconnect with Sisters, family, and friends, and to recharge her strength and spirit.

Whether or not COVID becomes a pandemic in Lukolela, Sister Mary will take it in stride. “One thing I’ve learned is to really rely on God,” she says. “There are so many problems that seem like there’s no solution, but I can look back and see how many times I was worried, but God always seemed to come through. I have that experience to carry with me as problems arise.”

*Sister Mary would love to hear from her Upstate classmates. If you would like us to forward a message, please email [medalum@upstate.edu](mailto:medalum@upstate.edu) with Sister Mary in the subject line. To learn more about her work, visit [www.congoriverjourney.org](http://www.congoriverjourney.org).*



When time permits, Sister Mary enjoys cooking for the sisters in their wood-fired oven.

## Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

MEDICAL STUDENT ALYSSA PURDY HAS MADE GLOBAL HEALTH A FOCAL POINT OF HER MEDICAL EDUCATION.

Every Tuesday, a medical team from Upstate Medical University conducts COVID-19 screenings for new Americans and refugees resettling in Syracuse. For medical students like Alyssa Purdy '22, volunteering to assist newly resettled refugees provides a global health experience in her own backyard.

"If the pandemic has shown us anything, it's that the health of the world is so much more interconnected these days, with COVID variants spreading from one country to another through international travel," she says.

The screening is a joint venture between Upstate's Refugee Health Clinic and the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement team and is run at the CYO on Syracuse's northside, the area where most new Americans settle. Run by Andrea Shaw, MD '09, assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics, the clinic provides care for refugee families from sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East—most recently a large influx of patients fleeing the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

This community-clinic partnership offers COVID testing free of charge to refugee families in the Syracuse area. Purdy leads this project, organizing a team of Upstate volunteers and coordinating testing translation and contact tracing support with the help of the Catholic Charities health navigator team, made up of new Americans speaking more than 25 languages collectively. "Most of the newly arriving Afghan refugees had COVID tests shortly before they arrived, but they have to get another test before they can integrate into the community and start to go to their doctor's appointments and things like that," she says. "And families know that if their child has been sent home from school with the sniffles, they can come and get a

**"... I definitely want to continue some component of refugee work in the United States.**

**Global health is practiced just as much locally as it is internationally."**

—Alyssa Purdy '22



Andrea Shaw, MD '09, and fourth-year medical student Alyssa Purdy at the Northside CYO

COVID test on Tuesday so that they can get cleared to go back to school."

Another bonus is that testing is done via saliva swab. "The kids don't have to be traumatized by getting another nasal pharyngeal swab," she says. "It's just like brushing your teeth."

Purdy believes the COVID testing is an important service for these refugee families, most of whom do not speak English and communicate through translation

support at the refugee center. "It would be very difficult for this population to get to one of the downtown clinics or out to the fairgrounds and they would have no means to communicate," she says.

Finding global health experiences has been a focal point for Purdy, even before beginning medical study at Upstate. After receiving her acceptance, Purdy deferred medical school for a year and spent six months volunteering in Ghana, Africa, with Unite for Sight, an organization that sponsors ophthalmologists to provide eye care. "I had never studied abroad in college, and this was an opportunity to immerse myself in another culture and have an international health-care experience," she says.

Teams of volunteers traveled to churches, schools, and community centers to conduct eye exams, seeing anywhere from 50 to 200 patients in a day. Purdy assisted with the refraction, and distributing eyeglasses and medications based on the providers' prescriptions.

"The local Ghanaian ophthalmologists were very passionate about providing quality care for their patients, but resources and funds were a limiting factor," she says. "It was amazing to see children receive a pair of glasses so that they could read the board or books at school. Because I wear glasses, I know I wouldn't have done well without them."

As a new medical student, Purdy attended the club fair and met Christina Lupone, MPH '13, director of the Center for Education and Training in the Upstate Institute for Global Health and Translational Science. "I was amazed by the global health opportunities that Upstate has established for students who are interested," she says.

Purdy joined Students for Global Health, and working with Lupone and Dr. Shaw, put together a proposal to conduct



At the Refugee Clinic held at the Northside CYO, Dr. Shaw and Purdy discuss health concerns with patients.

research in conjunction with the Institute of Global Health's program in Kisumu, Kenya. With funding from the College of Medicine Summer Research Fellowship program, Purdy spent two months in summer 2019 in Kenya. Part of her time was spent shadowing Kenyan medical students and attendings at the Obama Children's Hospital, where she was exposed to pathologies unusual in the United States, such as malaria, rickets, and Burkitt's lymphoma. She also spent time with Shaw conducting research at community health sites.

Purdy's own project focused on diabetes, which she says is an overlooked condition in the global health setting, where the focus tends to be on infectious disease. "I had a really well-rounded experience seeing academic medicine in Kenya as well as more rural community health care, which exposed me to different avenues for doing clinical work abroad," she says.

Purdy presented her project in November 2019 at the American Society for Tropical Medicine conference. At the time she expected she would be returning to Kenya during medical school. When

the COVID-19 pandemic prevented international travel, Purdy turned her focus locally.

In addition to volunteering at the refugee clinic, Purdy was tapped to serve on the planning board for a virtual international conference for health science trainees in the United States, Libya, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), funded through the Stevens Institute.

"Bridging Cultures to Defeat COVID-19" was a two-part conference, with programming held over two weeks in late fall 2021 and again in late winter 2022, attracting more than 250 participants.

Purdy was recruited to the project by Lupone, co-principal investigator on the grant with Seth Perry, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry, neuroscience and physiology, neurosurgery, and public health. "Alyssa is a highly motivated and an enthusiastic student who understands what we're trying to do in the field of global health in terms of reducing health inequities, understanding cultural competence, and finding ways to connect people different from ourselves to tackle some of these health problems and diseases," she says.

Purdy worked with Lupone and other medical students on networking components of the conference, creating virtual conference platforms so that students and practitioners from the three participating countries could interact. "People from different countries were able to share their experiences," says Purdy. "Although COVID exposed some of the structural issues in healthcare in the United States, it was particularly interesting to hear about the challenges in Libya, where the country has been destabilized so long due to civil war. It opened my eyes to a part of the world that I hadn't interacted with."

As a fourth-year student, Purdy began working as a runner in the Upstate Emergency Department, restocking supplies and helping triage patients. With the advent of the Omicron variant this winter, the emergency rooms filled up with COVID patients and ambulance stretchers lined both sides of the waiting area. "It felt overwhelming, but at the same time, I'd seen crowded hospitals in Kenya, so it wasn't entirely new."

In July, Purdy will begin a combined medicine/pediatrics residency at Baystate Medical Center, preparing her to be a well-rounded provider in a global health setting. And that doesn't necessarily mean traveling to a remote setting abroad.

"I haven't decided if I want to work in an in-patient or out-patient setting professionally or what I might do on an international level, but I definitely want to continue some component of refugee work in the United States," she says. "Global health is practiced just as much locally as it is internationally." ■

# CLASS NOTES

## 1950

**Fleurene P. Holt**, writes "I am 95 years old and live in a retirement home in Boca Raton, FL. My husband, **Allen H. Holt '48** passed away in March 2021. I graduated in the class of 1950 and was the first female to graduate with a seven-month-old baby. Best greetings to old friends."

## 1952 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

## 1954

**Mallory Stephens**, of Wolfeboro, NH, writes "It's uplifting to read about what an outstanding medical school Upstate Medical University has become. It was a good school when we were there, but even better now. I recently spoke with **Bill Hampton, Jr.** who sounded the same as ever. He was a great roommate."

## 1956

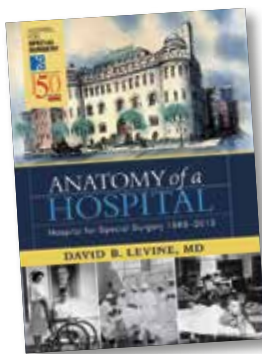
**Willard Cohen**, of DeWitt, NY, has been retired for 25 years, but is still teaching ECG to Upstate cardiology fellows one day a week. He celebrated his 90th birthday with his nuclear family in December 2021. "I am still (slowly) skiing. And regret the loss of our last reunion," he writes

**Michael L. Del Monico**, of Raleigh, NC, shares "No change. Still in Raleigh with family."

## 1957 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

**David B. Levine**, of New York, NY, retired from patient care in 1995, and since has researched, published, and reported on medical history at a number of medical meetings. On September 1, 2021, he founded the medical history society at Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), The Coley Society, named after William Bradley Coley, MD, the third surgeon-in-chief 1925-1933 at HSS. In 1889, Coley developed the first vaccine, *Coley's Toxins*, to treat advanced stage cancer. He is known today as the father of cancer immunotherapy. The story's beginnings are detailed in Levine's book *Anatomy of a Hospital - Hospital for Special Surgery 1863-2013*. Published in 2013 at the 150th anniversary of HSS, the book has been republished in digital and soft cover copies on sale at Amazon.



*Anatomy of a Hospital: Hospital for Special Surgery 1863-2013* by David B. Levine '57



Julian M. Aroesty '60 on his birthday with grandchildren Hayden Julian and Claire Everly

## 1960

**Julian M. Aroesty**, of Scituate, MA, writes "My oldest two grandkids have completed university (no MDs), the next two are in university (no MDs), but I am happy to report that Claire, when asked what she wants to be, says 'A doctor.' What kind of doctor? 'A pink doctor' (her favorite color). I just need to work on her subspecialty choice. I still attend Zoom teaching conferences three days per week, writing for UpToDate and doing second opinion cardiac consultations for patients in Europe, the Near East and Asia. I cycle about 10-15 miles several days per week in Longboat Key, FL, from December through April."

**Allen H. Unger**, of Bronx, NY, is still active in the practice of cardiology and internal medicine.

## 1962 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

## 1964

**Edward Burak**, of Englewood Cliffs, NY, sold his imaging center in 2020 and has been reading remotely from home since May 2021. "I'm enjoying my kids and grandkids," he writes. "My son **Jarett S. Burak '02** is now head of MSK radiology for the Catholic Health Care System and works at St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, NY. I am still active physically, playing tennis, walking regularly and working out with weights and doing chin-ups daily."

**George Burak**, of Scarsdale, NY, shares that his son **Corey Burak '99** is chief of total joint service at Phelps Memorial Hospital.

## 1966

**Norman L. Fienman**, of Broomall, PA, writes, "On behalf of the entire class of 1966, I wish to express our extreme thankfulness for the Norton family gift to the University. This legacy is forever."

**Susan E. Glasser** and **Bernard D. Glasser**, of Los Angeles, CA, both retired about 20 years ago. They are enjoying their children, a son who is a child psychiatrist and a daughter who is a pediatric neurologist. They have four lovely grandchildren ages 11 to 15. "We would like to say goodbye to COVID," they write.

## George H. Newman '66

of Bedford, NH, and Sally are enjoying their five grandchildren. George has thousands of plants and Sally is exhibiting her art work.

**Austin M. Pattner**, of Englewood, NJ, writes "Forty-eight years in practice and still going, but practice makes perfect."

## 1967 Reunion

September 16•17, 2022

**Hal C. Burchel**, of Hillsborough, NC, has returned to Africa to lead people to Christ. "I am completely settled in a one-bedroom apartment on the ground floor in a very lovely and secure apartment complex. I have two wonderful young African partners, David and Victoria, who are very mature and devoted Christians. I've also been able to rent a discipleship center near the slum in which we will be working. I will share the gospel message in Kiswahili and they will disciple the new converts in the discipleship center. We also give out discipleship material weekly in Kiswahili, which David and Victoria will grade and return to the new converts

each week. The Africans are very anxious to get reading material and learn. After they complete 17 lessons we give them a Swahili Bible, which they will treasure. Life is GOOD! And God is GOOD all the time!!"

## 1968

**Robert L. Bard**, of New York, NY, was named medical advisor to the National AreYouDense Foundation for evaluation of breast cancer in dense breasts. For more information visit [www.areyoudense.org](http://www.areyoudense.org)

**Kenneth J. Hoffer**, of Santa Monica, CA, writes "After establishing a solo private practice in Santa Monica in cataract/IOL surgery in July 1972, I will officially retire from practice in June 2022, celebrating 50 years of clinical practice. I will continue my research, publications, and lecturing in the extremely esoteric field of intraocular lens (IOL) power calculation, probably until my passing."

## 1969

**Joann Tomaszewicz Dale**, of Rochester, NY, shares "After my medical school classmate and husband **Bob Dale** died, I continued the globe-trotting we'd begun when he retired. I had a wonderful cruise to Australia and New Zealand in January 2020 and a land tour of Morocco the following February. Then COVID appeared. Like most of us, I am now stuck at home. Fortunately, close friends and family remain COVID-free, so we can have in-person visits. I did manage a four-day small group trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake in December 2021. It was wonderful to go somewhere, see two plays (the town is home to the Shaw festival), tour the town, dine out with wine tastings, and ogle the holiday decorations at the Falls. Lately, I have spent my time shoveling snow."

**Kenneth M. Grundfast**, of Chestnut Hill, MA, was the recipient of the 2021 Boston Medical Center's Jerome Klein Award for physician excellence. The Klein awardee is chosen each year by the chairs of the clinical departments and the award is given to the physician who has best demonstrated the following attributes: high standards and expectations, clinical and/or research excellence, leadership with a positive attitude, outstanding mentoring/serving as an exemplary role model, and has been supportive of colleagues and other health-care providers. More than 50 years after graduation

from medical school, he continues practicing otolaryngology, although he no longer does surgery but still enjoys teaching medical students. He remains eternally grateful for the medical education that he received at Upstate and for the warmth, kindness, and teaching skills of the members of the faculty at Upstate.



John T. McCarthy '69 and Jane L. Falkenstein '69 on Jane's birthday

**John T. McCarthy** and **Jane L. Falkenstein**, of Troy, NY, write "During this horrible, prolonged pandemic we've managed to cope by hunkering down and spoiling Jane's nearly two-year-old granddaughter, Sadie, every chance we get. When not doing that we have enjoyed reading aloud to each other. I continue to write articles for the American Academy of Pediatrics quarterly, *Senior Bulletin*, and for the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's quarterly, *Owl Newsletter*. Jane continues to enjoy playing violin for two local orchestras (masked up, of course)."

# CLASS NOTES

## 1970

**Alexander E. Kuehl**, of Amelia Island, FL, and Jane recently passed through the Panama Canal on a four-month world cruise that was on their bucket list. Next up, Cape Horn, Africa, and the Suez Canal. "There is no COVID on the ship and I hosted a Robbie Burns Night (Haggis and all) for Robbie's and Jane's birthdays, January 25. We hope to be back on Amelia Island in June and then to spend the summer on the St. Lawrence, including a 60th high school reunion in Gouverneur," he writes.



Richard B. Bernstein '71

## 1971

**Richard B. Bernstein**, is retired and living in Atlanta, GA, with his wife Carol. They have two children and two grandchildren.

## 1972 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

**Philip R. Caropreso**, of Keokuk, IA, is retired from surgical practice and remains active in Lee County Iowa public health. Recently, he began his second three-year term on the board of directors and was elected vice-chair.

**Michael A. Weiner**, of Salisbury, CT, has written, *The Babies Hospital of New York*, about the history of the babies hospital at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. The book is in the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing.



Images of America *The Babies Hospital of New York* by Michael A. Weiner '72

## 1974

**Philip Schulman**, of Melville, NY, has launched a website [pschulman.com](http://pschulman.com), that includes information on his two novels *Deadly Motivations* and *Confession* and recordings of songs he has written. "Please visit and comment," he shares.



*Confession* by Philip Schulman '74

## 1975

**Jay A. Erlebacher**, of Tenafly, NJ, is still working full-time in his seven-person cardiology practice in Englewood. "I start feeling a little low when I'm not waking up in the morning with something to do and accomplishing something, an unfortunate trait I inherited from my father," he writes. "In good weather, I get to ride my bike three days a week with friends, covering 35 to 70 miles per clip. In the winter, I organize a men's ski trip to Alta, UT. This year we had 31 skiers (Let me know if you'd like to join us!). In March, I went on my annual ski trip to Snowbird, UT, with my



Jay A. Erlebacher '75

two sons. So far, I'm still attempting to keep up with them. I've got four super grandchildren ages two to nine, and thankfully with the end of the pandemic, we are getting to spend more time with them. Our 50th wedding anniversary is coming up, and in June, Marlene and I plan to spend a couple of weeks in Tuscany with my brother **Mark S. Erlebacher '79** and his wife Marci. I'm working on my fifth patent, this one for an invention to improve placement of a new type of pacemaker lead. I'm extremely thankful I still have the health and the ability to enjoy everything, and continue to try my best to not act my age. Best to all!"

## 1977 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

**Charles B. Eaton**, of Plymouth, MA, stopped seeing his own patients but continues to supervise residents in the Brown University family medicine program, and runs the center for primary care and prevention. He plans to retire in five years. During COVID, he reconnected with former roommates,



Alfred L. Gianfagna '77, Charles B. Eaton '77 and Warren Sherman '77

**Al Gianfagna** and **Warren Sherman** with monthly Zoom calls. "If you are in the Boston/Cape Cod area and like to golf, I live on the sixth hole of the Nicklaus golf course in the Pinehills and would welcome a visit from classmates," he writes.



Mark W. Zilkoski '77 with two of his daughters

**Mark W. Zilkoski**, of Wolf Point, MT, recently celebrated 12 years of great beers at DOC'Z Missouri Breaks Brewing with two of his daughters. Daughter Katie is one of the first female brewers in Montana.



## PATRICIA WILLIAMS, MD '78

## The Aftermath of Disaster

On December 10, 2021, a devastating tornado hit Mayfield, Kentucky, killing 130 people and flattening much of the town, including the Mayfield Consumer Products Candle Factory, where nine workers died. Debris from the town could be found hundreds of miles away in Indiana and eastern Kentucky. Victims continue to be found as rubble is cleared.

The tornado was not a surprise. Patricia Williams, MD '78, and her husband Wayne, were at home, out in the country. "The local television station in Paducah was accurately able to predict when it would hit the area so many people were able to take cover," she says. While the tornado came within a half mile, their home was spared.

Others were not so lucky. "We've had tornado warnings enough that people don't always heed the warning," says Williams. Many homes did not have basements and trailers were swept away with families inside them.

Williams and her husband are family physicians with a practice in downtown Mayfield, which provided a medical home for much of the community. Almost immediately after the storm passed, they were able to get images of downtown via the Internet. "That was when we realized that our office had been destroyed," she says.

The next morning, they needed a chainsaw to get down their driveway because of all the downed trees in order to make rounds at the hospital. "As we drove close to town the destruction was unbelievable," Williams recalls. "There was nothing standing for miles. The silence was deafening."

Because the water treatment plant and a water tower were destroyed, there was no electricity or water in town for weeks. The hospital ran on a generator and trucked in water to keep operational. Many patients could not be discharged because their homes had been destroyed, some losing loved ones.

The Williams were able to salvage enough equipment from the wreckage to move to a temporary location within a few days. However, because they lost their computer system, medical records were unavailable.

"Every patient we saw had heartbreaking stories," says Williams. "We did what we could but felt so helpless with the enormity of their needs."

The first step was to help patients get needed medications, an issue compounded by the loss of several pharmacies in town. "We worked it out with neighboring pharmacies—as long as someone could produce a current prescription bottle, they could get a month's refill," she says.

Although she'd never witnessed anything of this scale, Williams is no stranger to small town emergency medicine. As a resident at St. Joseph's Hospital, Williams helped start an ER group to cover weekends at the Geneva Hospital. After residency, she joined a practice in Waterloo, New York, where her late husband, Leland Elliott, MD '78 was an OB/GYN. They were recruited to a multi-practice group in Mayfield in the 1980s. She joined practices with her current husband in 2009.

The practice cared for patients from newborn to elderly. The Williams' rounded on their own patients in the hospital and served as medical directors of two nursing homes (one destroyed in the tornado). They had already endured a difficult two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a vaccine-resistant population.

"Our initial outbreak occurred in one of the local nursing homes, where 60 of the 80 patients were infected over a three-month period," she says.

They closed their office waiting room and people waited in their cars for nurses to come take vitals and conduct assessments. Well patients were allowed in for necessary exams and bloodwork while sick patients were exam-



Patricia Williams, MD '78, with her husband, Dr. Wayne Williams

ined by gowned-up docs in the parking lot. "We had numbered spaces in the parking lot like we numbered our exam rooms," Williams says.

That same parking lot was the first thing that was cleared after the storm. "News media gathered there for their various operations," she says.

At 70 and close to retirement, the Williams' aren't looking to rebuild new office facilities. They have a younger doctor working for them, so his interest will influence the future of the practice.

Fortunately, Williams says, they were well insured and at the end of their careers. Many business owners are not in the same position. "There are people who have lost everything and have to start from scratch," she says. "It will take years for the area to recover."

# CLASS NOTES



Bruce A. Salzberg '79 with his daughter, son-in-law, and wife, Lisa

## 1979

**Bruce A. Salzberg**, of Atlanta, GA, writes "After 34 years of conducting clinical research in the field of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and receiving the first center of excellence recognition in IBD from the American Gastroenterology Association, I have decided to close the center and focus on my patients with IBD in my clinical practice. I would also like to congratulate my daughter on her recent wedding to Ben Lanier."



Tehila Malka, granddaughter of Ronald C. Brodsky '81

## 1981

**Ronald C. Brodsky**, of Norfolk, VA, is happy to announce the birth of his second grandchild, a girl, Tehila Malka, born in Jerusalem to son Saul and wife Adina in November 2021. His daughter Marlene, who lives in Denver, is expecting another surprise, in July of this year.

## 1982 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

**Alan Kawarai Lefor**, of Utsunomiya, Japan, is still living in Japan. "In March 2022, I became professor of surgery, emeritus at Jichi Medical University (forced retirement at 65 is common here). I am also expecting to graduate with a doctorate in engineering from the University of Tokyo this spring," he writes. "Barring travel restrictions, I will be attending my son's wedding in Los Angeles this fall and am hoping to see many of you at the reunion in September. I can't believe that 40 years has gone by. Hoping you all continue to stay healthy, stay hungry, and stay foolish. All the best!"

**Nicholas G. Tullo**, of Towaco, NJ, is still practicing cardiac electrophysiology in northern New Jersey, with a specialty in syncope and dysautonomia (mostly POTS). He is also the creator of ECG-Academy.com, now in business for 10 years and going strong. "My oldest son Chris is finishing his master's degree in mental health and school coun-



Nicholas G. Tullo '82

seling. My middle son Alex just graduated Ringling College with a BFA in 3-D animation and his senior thesis project won the Student Academy Award (along with 20+ other film festivals worldwide). He is now a character animator for a feature-length Netflix film in Montreal, with plans to work for a major animation company in California. My daughter Veronica is a sophomore at Chapman University in California majoring in film directing, and won the title of Miss North Jersey 2021 in the Miss America Pageant system. My wife Lucy holds everything together like an expert. Unfortunately, I lost my parents in 2021. Hopefully 2022 will be better for us all. Stay safe!"

**Jeffrey N. Verzella**, of Williamsport, PA, has been the interim program director of the family medicine residency since May 2020 and is hoping to hang on for two more years. "I have given up obstetrics (and thankfully on-call) but have traded them in for other worries that keep me up at night (all you program directors out there know what I mean). Thank God for bourbon," he writes.

## 1983

**Pierre E. Dionne**, of Olean, NY, and wife Lesa both retired in 2018 and now spend their winters RVing across the southwest. "We volunteered for the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta in October 2021 and the Lake Havasu Arizona Balloon Festival in January 2022," he writes.



Pierre E. Dionne '83 and Lesa

**Susan Jensen**, of Fort Mill, SC, enjoyed time with her college-aged daughter who moved home during the pandemic and took classes via Zoom. Together, they studied their Judaism and became more observant. "We created a lot of low carb alternatives to classic Jewish recipes from around the world and are working on a Keto Kosher Cookbook. For us, there were many blessings within this pandemic lockdown," she writes.

## 1985

**Stephen F. Coccaro**, of Setauket, NY, welcomed his first grandchild, Flora Giovanna, into the world on January 20.

## 1986

**Georgianne Arnold**, of Pittsburgh, PA, is professor of pediatrics and clinical research director in medical genetics and genomics at Children's Hospital Pittsburgh. "I am excited to be doing gene therapy in inborn errors of metabolism," she writes.



Colleen O. Davis '86

**Colleen O. Davis**, of Fairport, NY, is chief of the pediatric emergency department for Golisano Children's Hospital at University of Rochester Medical Center. She recently received the Athena International Award from the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and its Women's Council. This award is given annually to a professional female leader who has demonstrated significant achievements in business, community service, and the professional advancement of women.

**Ronald C. Samuels '89** of Newton, MA, left Boston after 29 years to return to New York State, accepting a position as associate chief for complex care in the division of general pediatrics at Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

1987 ReUnion  
September 16-17, 2022

## 1988

**Andrew M. Cohen**, of Las Vegas, NV, is a practicing radiation oncologist and president of Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada, a 47-physician multispecialty group, where he keeps busy with prostate brachytherapy and management. He is an avid Golden Knights fan and enjoys spending time with his wife Kim, children Adam and Ilana, Angel the yorkie and Leo the golden.

## 1989

**Matthew Schofield**, of Cambridge, MA, shares, "My daughter was married to a wonderful guy in January. I just retired from primary care pediatrics and left the office I founded with a friend in good hands. My wife and I bought a farm in Maine a few years ago. We are restoring the meadow, managing our woodlands, and planning a barn. Looking forward to a more rural life. Our daughter was born during



Matthew Schofield '89

my fourth year of medical school, 32 years ago. Our son is 29 and living in Brooklyn, NY."

**Stephen R. Weinman**, of New Paltz, NY, continues to be busy with COVID; his medical center is testing up to 150 people a day at its drive-through test site. He is also working at the world-famous Mohonk Mountain House as the house physician, "which is maybe the best job ever," he writes. "They pay me in food and my feelings toward food haven't changed since medical school. I can't get enough." His family recently traveled to Denmark for the holidays. They also traveled to Cozumel, Mexico, with Grandpa **Herb Weinman '65** to do some diving. He went to see Steely Dan with **Brad Carson '89** and it was

a fantastic show. He also participated in the online virtual Upstate Alumni Career Advisory Network and can't recommend it enough. "It was a lot of fun meeting wet-behind-the-ears medical students (it feels like it wasn't that long ago for us) and telling them about my career path, which admittedly is a bit winding. I wasn't sure what floor to be on; plastics? dermatology? emergency medicine? family practice? I just kept moving around the virtual space looking for other class of '89s and the two hours whizzed by."

# CLASS NOTES

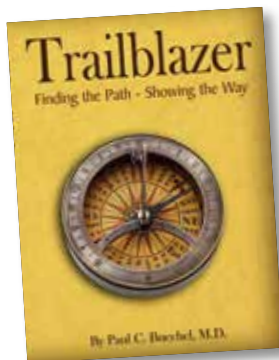
## 1990

**John D. Bisognano**, of Ann Arbor, MI, has left the University of Rochester for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he is section director of general, consultative, and preventive cardiology. "I like the milder winters," he writes.



David W. Dexter '91 and Patti

## 1991



*Trailblazer* by Paul C. Buechel '91

**Paul C. Buechel**, of Nolensville, TN, published his second book, *Trailblazer*, which lays out how we must step up, step in, and act, in order to achieve the life we were meant to live, the one which provides maximal benefit for ourselves as well as others in this crazy world of ours. It is available on his website, RiseandSoarMinistries.com and wherever else books are sold. "Please visit my site, as well as my Facebook author page, and be sure to leave a message. Become a trailblazer!"

**David W. Dexter**, and his wife Patti have relocated to Lakewood Ranch, FL, a pre-retirement move. "I am doing all aspects of general surgery including robotics at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. We have been planning to move to Florida for years and decided not to wait until retirement to start enjoying the warm weather. This is one of the fastest growing areas in the country and very close to where Patti grew up. We are very excited to be here enjoying the sunshine state," he writes.

## 1992 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

**Joseph Damore Jr.**, of Bedford Hill, NY, is heavily engaged in the private practice of psychiatry and child psychiatry in Westchester, NY. His wife **Mary Beth** (Mandry) is busy as a pediatric endocrinologist at Westchester Medical Center. "At the urging of our two daughters, one already a

**Mark E. Ohl '92** of Hamilton, NY, writes "Our daughter Jennifer (who used to accompany us to class parties) has blessed us with two amazing grandsons, Ethan and Elliott. JoAnn and I celebrated 40 years of marriage in July 2021. Can't wait to see you all at the reunion."



Mary Beth Damore '92, daughter Kelly, and Joseph Damore Jr. '92.



Kirsten, daughter of Joseph Damore '92 and Mary Beth Damore '92

member and one joining, Mary Beth I also joined our local Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Katonah Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps in January 2021," he writes. "The need has been extraordinary, and the joy from service has been remarkable, especially when you can do so as a family. Driving an ambulance is quite an experience, which I highly recommend."

## 1997 Reunion

September 16-17, 2022

**Michelle Torres**, of Hillsborough, CA, is the office medical director at One Medical in Burlingame, CA. "We have locations all over the country and



Michelle Torres '97 and her three children

are recruiting physicians. Please feel free to reach out if you or anyone you know is looking for a job. I hope all of you are doing well. I am married with three children—my oldest has started high school!”

## 1998

**Aviva D. Gorig**, of New York, NY, has lived and worked in Manhattan since graduation. “I am currently working in an out-patient mental health clinic and in private practice. My older daughter is working in finance, and my younger daughter is now a freshman in college. My husband and I have a farm upstate, and we grow all kinds of things!”

## 2010

**Harman Singh Gill**, of Lebanon, NH, was chosen as the 2021 ACEP (American College of Emergency Physicians) National Junior Teaching Faculty Award recipient. This is a national award given to four physicians yearly across the entire membership of emer-

gency physicians internationally. He also received two hospital-wide teaching awards from the departments of medicine and emergency medicine in the past two years at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. He is dual-boarded in emergency medicine and critical care medicine.

**Beverly A. Schaefer**, of Bowmansville, NY, is a pediatric hematologist, now serving as the pediatric medical director of Western NY BloodCare, a comprehensive, federally-funded hemophilia treatment center in Buffalo, NY. She also developed a curriculum to support an advanced fellowship in hemostasis and thrombosis and encourages pediatric or adult hematologists/oncologists in training to apply.

## 2012 ReUnion

September 16•17, 2022

## 2015

**Kelly J. Cummings** and **Rahul R. Shah**, of Jersey City, NJ, were married on October 10, 2021 in Skaneateles, New York. They met while students at Upstate.

## 2016

**Doreen Biribwa Arinaitwe**, of Syracuse, NY, attended friend and classmate **Helen A. Badu's** nuptials in July 2021 in New York City. There were several members of the class of 2016 in attendance along with their spouses and children.

**Danielle S. Wallace**, and her husband welcomed their daughter, Eletha Rose Wallace, on October 16, 2021. They are currently living in Rochester, NY, while she completes her hematology/oncology fellowship at the Wilmot Cancer Institute.



Eletha Rose Wallace, daughter of Danielle S. Wallace '16



From L to R: Edgar Mulongo, husband of Doreen Biribwa Arinaitwe '16; Eric Richter, husband of Eposi Mbame-Richter '16; Dr. Richter (internal medicine hospitalist); Adeola Odugbesi '16 (vascular surgeon); Helen Badu Offei '16 (neurologist); Dr. Arinaitwe (med/peds hospitalist) with son Daudi Mulongo; Naomie Delone '16 (pediatrician); and Chukwuma Nwagboso '16 (anesthesiologist).



Kelly J. Cummings '15 and Rahul R. Shah '15



Kelly J. Cummings '15 and Rahul R. Shah '15

# CLASS NOTES

## 2017 Reunion September 16-17, 2022

**Erin D. Bright** and **Tyler C. Underriner**, of Denver, CO, were married in September of 2021.



Erin D. Bright '17 and Tyler C. Underriner '17 (center) with Upstate friends Jason Elyaguov '17, William Reed '18, Ian Kratzke '17, Michael Smith '17, Rhea Rubin '17, Kyle Richardson '17, Kiran Aravapalli '17, Julia Primo '17, Tara Brenner '17, and Samantha Lucrezia '17

**Sarah J. Lopez**, married James Miers in an intimate ceremony on the shores of Lake Tahoe in January 2022. They are currently living in Reno, NV.



Sarah J. Lopez '17 and James Miers



Ashraf A. Patel '21

## 2021

**Ashraf A. Patel**, of Salt Lake City, UT, is a current first-year plastic surgery resident at the University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics. In October he made two podium presentations at the 90th Plastic Surgery-The Meeting 2021, held in Atlanta, GA. His presentations covered his research on salvage breast reconstruction and clinical trials within the field of plastic surgery. "It was a fantastic opportunity to attend the meeting, learn about the advances within the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery, and share contributions from our research done at Upstate," he writes.

**Michael J. Weingarten**, of Holliswood, NY, and his wife Julie announce the birth their daughter, Emma Betty, on December 26, 2021. "Congratulations to grandfather **Alexander E. Weingarten '80!**"



Michael J. Weingarten '21 and daughter Emma Betty Weingarten

## Resident

**John J. Folk**, of Oswego, NY, completed a Doctor of Education (EdD) at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education on December 31, 2021. Dr. Folk's dissertation was grounded in the mind, brain, and teaching concentration with emphasis on the application of neuroscience evidence-based research in teaching practice. His dissertation combined the development of an online, asynchronous, module-based strategy for delivering online clinical medical educational content in a mixed method research setting with a qualitative research approach to a root cause analysis process in evaluating an educational programmatic outcome. Folk completed his residency in OB/GYN at Upstate in 1994, a fellowship in adult critical care and medicine at Wayne State University in 1998, and has been a full-time faculty member of the division of maternal fetal medicine at Upstate since 1998. Folk has served as the OB/GYN clerkship director in the College of Medicine at Upstate since 2011 and had served as assistant dean for clinical sciences and clerkship director in the College of Medicine simultaneously from 2016 to 2018. He looks forward to making his experience as a clinician, clinical educator, and a social sciences grounded researcher in medical education to serve the needs of the Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine as the UME program is developed and expanded in the near future.

## JOHN LOFRESE, MD '18

## Refugee Care

Having newly completed his internal medicine residency, John Lofrese, MD '18, was looking forward to beginning work as an attending at Camp Pendleton in Southern California. He had barely settled in when he received notice he was being deployed for a month as part of his Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF), a mobile medical team that is operationally ready within 48 hours. Their mission was to receive Afghan refugees at Fort Dix, New Jersey, as part of Operation Allies Welcome.

"I had just finished my internal medicine board exam when I was told to be ready to go in 48 hours," he says.

That month-long assignment would stretch to four months. Dr. Lofrese was part of a medical team that included physicians, nurses, physician assistants, various medical technicians, and behavioral health specialists, who provided intake exams and routine medical care for some 20,000 refugees who had been transported from Kabul, Afghanistan.

"We were in a situation where, very quickly, we had to assess the resources we had, the resources we needed, and to set up a system to conduct immigrant screening exams as quickly and safely as possible, but still be able to identify medical emergencies," he says.

At Fort Dix, the refugees received physical exams to bring them up to date on vaccinations and to screen for infectious disease. "One of the more common things we encountered was latent tuberculosis," he says.

Lofrese treated upward of 50 people a day, typically seeing entire family units at a time. "Afghan families are typically larger than those in the U.S. A family with only four or five children was considered small for our patient population," he says.

He says the busiest members of the team were the translators, who worked 12-hour shifts and never had a day off, and the behavioral health specialists, who were in constant demand.

"Nearly all of the refugees had experienced trauma of some sort," he says. "A lot of families were separated. We saw a lot of PTSD."

Because it took time for the various NGOs

involved to arrange where families would be settled, the refugees lived in three "villages" established at Fort Dix. As such, the medical team also had to provide ongoing care.

"There were times when the clinics were so busy, we were pulled from conducting physicals to help out," Lofrese says. "Sometimes people weren't ill, but it was the first time they'd ever had the opportunity to see a doctor. Others were very sick and needed to go to the hospital."

When concern arose over a potential measles outbreak, physicals were put on hold so the medical team could stage a massive immunization clinic. "It happened to be held on September 11, which was meaningful and felt like a sort of book-end of events," he says.

Lofrese attended Upstate Medical University on a U.S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship. He completed his internship at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego and residency at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He is currently a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. "I participated in a mass casualty drill as a medical student at Upstate, but I've never experienced health care on such a massive scale," he says of his experience at Fort Dix. "It was a crash course in managing a humanitarian crisis."

Lofrese returned to Camp Pendleton in December, where he treats active-duty troops, veterans, and their families. "It's been an adjust-



John Lofrese, MD '18

ment," he says. "I'm finally getting into the groove of things and finding my style of practice."

When he left Fort Dix, he estimates only 100 of the 20,000 refugees had been resettled. In March, he received a video from a colleague showing the last bus of refugees leaving.

"I know there are a range of perspectives in the country about refugee resettlement, but from my experience, I would have taken on twice as many Afghan families if we could," he says. "They've been through so much."

# CLASS NOTES

**Amilcar Arnaldo Tirado**, of New York, NY, finished his fellowship in forensic psychiatry at Upstate in June 2018. That summer, he joined the faculty at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) Westchester Division. He received an academic appointment at WCM as assistant clinical professor of psychiatry. In June 2019 he joined the attending physician faculty staff at Lincoln Medical Center (LMC). Currently, he is practicing in both the adult outpatient psychiatry department and psychiatric emergency services of LMC. At LMC he provides care in a medically underserved community population. "I most recently published two articles in the Psychiatric Times related to COVID-19 and my personal experience. The first was



Amilcar Arnaldo Tirado, MD, HS

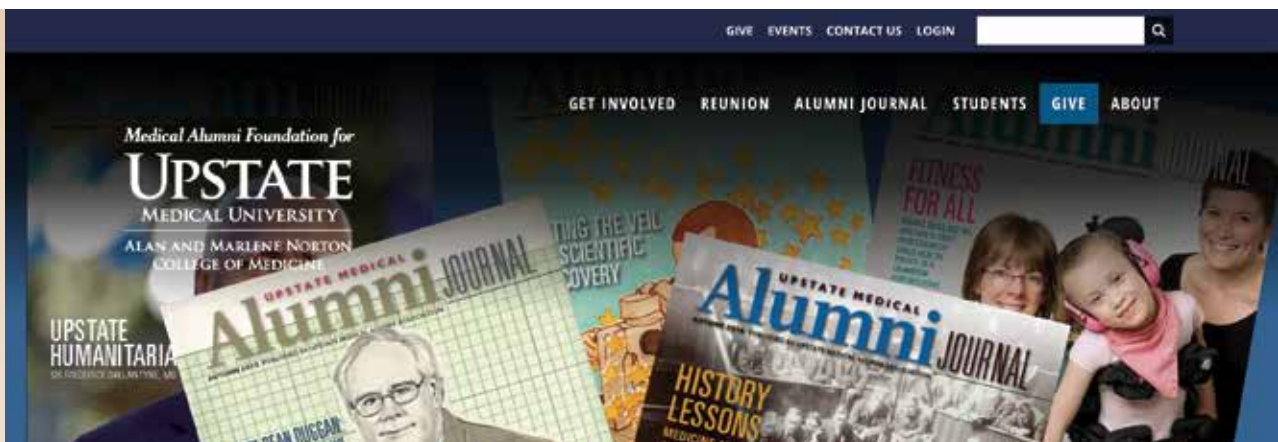
*Surviving Coronavirus: A Psychiatrist's Personal Journey*, published September 11, 2020, and *One Year with Covid-19*, published March 10, 2021. I found out that I passed the forensic psychiatry board exam in January 2022. Looking ahead at the next phase of my career I plan to start my own private practice."

**Xiaobin Yi**, of Richmond Heights, MO, trained in the Upstate anesthesia residency program from July 2000 to June 2003. He is working at the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Center. He is also director of pain medicine at Missouri Baptist Medical Center (for eight

years now) and was promoted to a full professor on January 1, 2021. His wife Sue, RN, BSN has been working in a COVID-19 unit for the past two years. Daughter Victoria graduated from Columbia University in May 2020 and is a first-year medical student at Duke University.



Xiaobin Yi, MD, HS, with daughter Victoria and wife Shujie



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# I N M E M O R I A M

## 1948

**ALLEN HOWARD HOLT**, of Boca Raton, FL, died March 13, 2021. Dr. Holt joined the Army Infantry in 1942. He trained at Yale University and Washington University Hospitals and completed a fellowship in radiology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, while earning a master of science degree at the University of Minnesota. After completing his fellowship, he returned to the Army as an officer and physician during the Korean War. He opened a private practice in radiology in Youngstown and then moved to Sharon, PA. He was the chief radiologist at Sharon General Hospital and also had a private practice for 30 years. Holt was survived by his wife **Fleurene Holt '50**; sons David, Kenneth, and Stuart; daughters Nancy, Sally, and Claire; 14 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

## 1949

**THOMAS E. SNYDER**, of Syracuse, NY, died December 19, 2021. Dr. Snyder served during the Korea War in the U.S. Air Force as a flight surgeon with the rank of captain. While in the Air Force, he received further education at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. After military service, he took over his father's medical practice serving as a family practice doctor in East Syracuse, NY, for three decades. He served as president of the New York State Health Officers Association (where he championed the roll out of the Salk polio vaccine statewide); was clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Upstate; and was a member of the American Medical Association, and Onondaga County Medical Society. He retired from medicine after losing his hearing and became a tireless advocate for the deaf community. Snyder was survived by his son James; daughter Ann; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## 1951

**EDWARD DUNN**, of Exeter, NH, died November 17, 2021. Dr. Dunn served in the Army in the Pacific theater. He completed his surgical residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. He served as chief of surgery at Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital in Syracuse from 1965 to 1974, followed by serving as director of surgery at Waterbury Hospital in Waterbury, CT, and professor of surgery at Yale from 1974 to 1990. He retired in 1993. Dunn was survived by his three children, Suzanne, Roger and Karen; and four grandchildren.

## 1952

**HARVEY WASSERMAN**, of Coolnatullagh, Carron, Co. Clare, Ireland, died April 14, 2018. Dr. Wasserman was survived by his wife Sarah; sister Harriet; and extended family.

## 1953

**PAUL LEROY LEWIS**, of Haverford, PA, died March 10, 2021. Dr. Lewis was a pathologist and professor at Thomas Jefferson University Medical School in Philadelphia, PA, and a clinician at Methodist Hospital in south Philadelphia. During World War II, he served as a navigator in the Army Air Corps, earning the rank of lieutenant. Lewis was survived by his son, Robert; and twin grandchildren.

**FREDERIC FOOTE TAYLOR**, of Colorado (formerly of Watertown, NY), died January 25. Dr. Taylor completed an internship at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence. He served as a Naval flight surgeon on several aircraft carriers stationed at Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island. Following his three years in the U.S. Navy, he returned to Upstate to complete his residency. In 1959 he opened an internal medicine practice in Watertown, NY, serving patients throughout the north country until retiring in 1996. He had a subspecialty of cardiology and was a fellow of the American College of Physicians. Taylor was survived by his wife

Flora; his daughter, Donna; sons Bruce and Alan; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Donations can be made in memory of Dr. Frederic F. Taylor to the Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation, Setnor Academic Bldg., Ste. 1510, 750 E Adams St, Syracuse, NY, 13210.

## 1954

**CARL W. JANOVSKY**, of Andover, MA, died May 10, 2020. Dr. Janovsky completed his medical internship in Denver, CO, and then served as an officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps for three years, with tours of duty in Korea and at West Point Military Academy. He opened a pediatric office in Springfield, MA, where he practiced for decades. Janovsky was survived by his children, Joel, Carol, and Jane; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**C. ROBERT SWANBECK**, of Shafter, CA, died August 18, 2020. Dr. Swanbeck completed an internship in Spokane, WA, and a residency in general practice in California. He served two years as captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He started practicing with the Fresno Anesthesia Group in 1960 and was a board-certified anesthesiologist for more than 30 years. Swanbeck was survived by his wife, Lois; sons Robert Alan, James Richard, Robert Lee and Eric Strand; and eight grandchildren.

## 1955

**WALTER E. BERDON**, of Hartsdale, NY, died August 6, 2017. Dr. Berdon was a former professor of medicine and chief of the division of pediatric radiology at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital (Babies Hospital) of New York-Presbyterian. He was recipient of the Gold Medal of the Society of Pediatric Radiology, past president of the Society of Pediatric Radiology, and the New York Roentgen Ray Society. Berdon was survived by his daughters, Victoria and Cynthia; son Andrew; and four grandchildren.

# IN MEMORIAM

**CHARLES F. HEINIG**, of Vernon, NY, died June 20, 2019. Dr. Heinig was a skilled orthopedic surgeon. His investigation of spinal stenosis started in his residency years studying the works of Dr. Charles Ellsworth. His innovations included a pedicle screw that could accept a Harrington rod or a wire, and he collaborated on the Isola Instrumentation System. Heinig retired from the Miller Clinic in Charlotte, NC, in 1989.

**KARL EDWARD MARKIN**, of Longmont, CO, died June 14, 2019.

**ARNOLD DAVID PEARLSTONE**, of Westport, CT, died May 21, 2020. Dr. Pearlstone trained in ophthalmology at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. He served as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy in the early 1960s and settled in Fairfield County in 1963, where he practiced for 60 years. He and his wife started Eye Care for the Underprivileged in the mid 1980s and traveled to rural Jamaica delivering eye care to those who had access to none. Pearlstone was survived by his children, Nancy, David, Leslie and Martha; 11 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

## 1956

**DONALD E. ROBINS**, of Scottsdale, AZ, died October 13, 2021. After medical school, he began residency at the Meadowbrook Hospital in Hempstead, NY. He then entered the U.S. Air Force, serving as captain at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL. Following his honorable discharge, he continued his residency at Upstate Medical University through 1961. Dr. Robins moved to Yonkers, NY, and opened his medical practice in Mount Vernon. He was accepted into a cardio-pulmonary fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center. He then moved to Scarsdale and opened a satellite office. He was clinical instructor in medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine from 1965 to 1976 and clinical assistant professor in medicine at New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY, from 1974 to 1983. From 1983 to 1992 he was clinical assistant professor in medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School and Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh. Robins was survived by his wife, Beverly; children Shari and Michael; and two grandchildren.

**ARTHUR I. SEGAUL**, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, died April 22, 2021. Dr. Segaul performed his surgical internship at the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, MA, followed by 10 years of service in the U.S. Navy. This included four years of surgical training at St. Albans Naval Hospital. He retired as a commander from the Navy in 1967 and practiced general surgery in Fort Lauderdale until his retirement. Segaul was survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters Cathy and Didi; son Edward; and five grandchildren.

## 1957

**MELVIN ARTHUR BUDDEN**, of Vero Beach, FL, died August 14, 2021. Dr. Budden was a practicing radiologist in Lansing, MI, for 32 years. Budden was survived by his daughter, Laura; son Douglas; and seven grandchildren.

## 1958

**THOMAS G. ALTAVILLA**, of Goleta, CA, died August 3, 2021. Dr. Altavilla served in the U.S. Navy and after the war, joined the U.S. Air Force. He then used the GI bill for school. He did his residency at Highland Hospital in Rochester, NY. In 1969, he began general practice in Goleta, CA, where he cared for many generations of local families and practiced at Goleta Valley Hospital. Altavilla was survived by his wife, Esther; sons Alex, Thomas, and Brad; and three grandchildren.

**JON BJORNSON**, of Center City, PA, died July 29, 2018. Dr. Bjornson served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps for seven years with one year of service in Vietnam as a flight medic, surgeon, and psychiatrist. Forever changed, he worked tirelessly for the remainder of his life to counsel war veterans and led many anti-war rallies. He taught at Jefferson Medical College from 1968 to 1986. He had a private practice in Center City and served as director of the psychiatric units at Einstein Hospital and Eugenia Hospital for many years. Bjornson was survived by his wife, Judy; son Jon; and three grandchildren.

**SEYMOUR ZIMBLER**, of Lexington, MA, died on February 14, 2021. Dr. Zimble trained in the Harvard combined orthopaedic program, where he was chief resident at Boston Children's Hospital. As a lieutenant commander at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Charleston, SC, he was dispatched with a marine unit to the Dominican Republic during the civil war and was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. He was appointed orthopaedic surgeon-in-chief at Beth Israel Hospital and during this time the department began its affiliation with Harvard Medical School. In 1970, he was recruited to start a pediatric orthopaedic service at Tufts New England Medical Center. He created a large service that included five full-time pediatric orthopaedists. He served as professor and as acting chairman of orthopaedic surgery. He later moved to Massachusetts General Hospital and ended his career where it began, at Boston Children's Hospital. Zimble was survived by his wife, Enid; and children Brian, Andrew, and Taffy.

## 1959

**MARTIN BERKOWITZ**, of Arlington Heights, IL, died December 14, 2021. Dr. Berkowitz was survived by his son, Bruce; daughter Susan; and four grandchildren.

**DAPHNE K. DEFREEST**, of Eugene, OR, died February 5, 2017. Dr. DeFreest completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology. She practiced in Akron, OH, and then transitioned to a practice of integrative medicine until she retired. DeFreest was survived by her sons Jeff and Eric; and two grandsons.

**DAVID C. GREENBERG**, of Barrington, IL, died January 18, 2018. Dr. Greenberg practiced orthopedics for 47 years in Denver, CO, and was a member of the Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Greenberg was survived by his wife, Molleah; daughter Jo Ann; son Michael; and three grandchildren.

# 1961

**CHARLES H. REINERS**, of Manlius, NY, died September 23, 2019. Dr. Reiners completed his internship and residency in Syracuse, and then moved to Baltimore, MD, to fulfill his military obligation. He returned to Syracuse and opened a private pediatric practice in Fayetteville, where he treated patients for more than 20 years. He spent the next 10 years at Crouse and Upstate hospitals, before retiring in 1999. Reiners was survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters Robin, Karen and Kimberly; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**BENNETT L. ROSNER**, of Yonkers, NY, died November 17, 2021. Dr. Rosner completed his residency training in psychiatry at Upstate in 1965. He first practiced in the U.S. Public Health Service (prison medicine) and then at Montefiore Medical Center. He served as the director of inpatient services, clinical director, and as acting chairman. He also served as medical director of the Hall-Brook Foundation Hospital and director of psychiatry at St. Joseph's Medical Center. His faculty positions included the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Columbia University, and the New York Medical College. A specialist in adolescent psychiatry, Rosner was an advisor and founding board member of the August Aichhorn Center of Adolescent Residential Care. He was survived by his wife Sarelle; daughter Beverly; sons Marc and Daniel; and seven grandchildren.

# 1962

**CECILLE O. BEYL**, of Upland, CA, died in December 2021. Dr. Beyl was one of two women graduating in her medical school class of 100. She was chair of the Oregon Health and Science University, Department of Pediatric Cardiology. The 1994 graduating medical school class of OHSU honored her with the Allen Hill Teaching Award. She retired in 1995. Beyl was survived by her husband, Gary; daughters Rachel and Martha; and grandchildren.

**JOSEPH E. GOLONKA**, of Lake Luzerne, NY, died August 29, 2020. Dr. Golonka served his internship at Albany Medical Center Hospital and became a clinical professor at the Albany Medical College in 1968. He had a long-standing private practice in endocrinology and internal medicine in Albany. He retired from private practice in 2002 but remained active in the medical field as a research fellow, United States Public Health Service physician, associate chief of medicine at St. Peters Hospital, clinical physician at the Capital District Psychiatric Center, and medical director for Blue Cross of New York. Golonka was survived by his wife, Lynne; daughters Maribeth and Christine; sons Matthew, Timothy, Michael, and Thomas; 19 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

# 1963

**NORMAN H. PARKS**, of Asheville, NC, died October 5, 2020. Dr. Parks was a beloved pediatrician at Asheville Pediatrics, giving tender care and wise advice to children and their families for more than 30 years. He was also an accomplished singer having trained at Eastman School of Music in Rochester. Parks was survived by his wife Carole; daughters Cheryl and Jennifer; son John; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; Carole's children Larry, Lori and Tim; and six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

# 1964

**CARL A. HAMMERSCHLAG**, of Paradise Valley, AZ, died January 21. Dr. Hammerschlag was a healer with the heart of a rebel and the spirit of a clown. He was a psychiatrist, author, storyteller, integrative healer, and humanitarian clown. In 2019, he was given the Humanitarian Award by Upstate College of Medicine. Dr. Hammerschlag was survived by his wife, Elaine; children; and grandchildren.

**EDWIN CARL KATZMAN**, of Boynton Beach, FL, died June 29, 2021. Dr. Katzman served in the U.S. Army. He had a successful career as a physical therapist at Delaware Hospital in Wilmington, before returning to school for a medical degree. He was a highly respected pediatrician in Newark, DE, for 35 years. Katzman was survived by his sons Hal and Paul; daughter Lori; and four grandchildren.

**ROBERT J. SNOWE**, of Seaford, NY, died August 21, 2019. Dr. Snowe was a beloved pediatrician dedicated to his patients and their families. Snowe was survived by his brother Alan; and four nieces.

# 1965

**BRUCE M. MARMOR**, of Fayetteville, NY, died December 26, 2021. Dr. Marmor trained in internal medicine and cardiology at Downstate Medical Center and New York Hospital-Cornell. He served as a physician in the U.S. Air Force. Marmor practiced medicine in Syracuse. He was chairman of the Department of Medicine and chief of Critical Care at Community General Hospital. He was the physician for the City of Syracuse Police Department, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, and the City of Syracuse Fire Department for more than 15 years. As chairman of the American Heart Association's Professional Education Committee, he instituted the annual Heart Teaching Day, which is one of the largest local cardiology education conferences in the country. Marmor was survived by his wife, Dr. Beverly Spirt Marmor; children David, Rafi, Rachel, and Sarah; and four grandchildren.

# 1967

**BARRY D. ORVELL**, of Vacaville, CA, died December 19, 2020.

# IN MEMORIAM

## 1969

**ROBERT A. WARNER**, of Tigard, OR, died June 28, 2021. Dr. Warner attended Duke University and Upstate Medical University. He served as captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserves and was chief of medical services at the Syracuse VA Medical Center for 10 years, professor of medicine for 11 years, medical director of Inovise Medical, and director of the Tigard Research University. Warner is survived by his wife, Norma Hill; his son, Scott; and Norma's children, Cathy, David, and Sherri.

## 1970

**WILLIAM J. GOODMAN**, of Corning, NY, died January 1, 2021. Dr. Goodman moved to San Diego in 1971 for psychiatric residency at the University of California-San Diego. In 1983 he returned to Utica, NY, to practice psychiatry. His career included both private practice as well as working for the New York State and County Correctional Systems. Goodman was survived by his daughters, Jennifer, Eve, and Rachel; son Stephen; and six grandchildren.

## 1972

**HAROLD PHILLIPS**, of Fayetteville, NY, died March 15, 2021. He completed his general residency at Emanuel Hospital in Portland, OR, and his pediatric residency at Oregon Health Sciences University. He opened a pediatric practice in Hillsboro, OR. He accompanied medical missions to Dominica and supported immigrant families. Phillips was survived by his children, Heidi, Andrew, Nathaniel, Becki and Madisen; and five grandchildren.

## 1975

**ROBERT M. GREEN**, of Pittsburgh, PA, died October 7, 2021. Following graduation, he completed a family practice residency at St. Margaret's Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. He started practicing at nearby St. Clair Hospital, serving as vice chairman and chairman of the Department of the Family Practice and as chairman of the quality improvement team. He co-founded Preferred Primary Care Physicians in 1995. In retirement, he volunteered at Catholic Charities and at a drug rehabilitation facility. Green was survived by his wife, Joan; daughter Rachel; son Daniel; and four grandsons.

## 1977

**WILLIAM G. HARRIS**, of Windsor, CT, died January 23, 2021. After graduation, he completed a three-year University of Connecticut family medicine residency. He dedicated the next 25 years of his career to Windsor Family Medicine, a practice he started with **Charlene Li**. He educated students, cared for patients, and positively affected the health of lives of countless local residents. Harris was survived by his children, Daniel and Alexandra; and two grandchildren.

## 1982

**MARC D. FELDMAN**, of Ventor, NJ, died January 2. Dr. Feldman began residency training in otolaryngology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. He furthered his training by completing a second residency in plastic surgery in 1989. He practiced plastic surgery for more than 30 years, serving as the plastic surgery division chief at Shore Medical Center and AtlantiCare Regional Medical Centers in Atlantic County, NJ. Feldman was survived by his wife, Sissy; sons Mathew and Jay; daughter Jenna; and granddaughter Aviva.

## 1989

**DANIEL G. MCBRIDE**, of Haydenville, MA, died October 20, 2021. Following graduation, he completed his internship and orthopedic residency at Upstate. He was awarded a fellowship in sports medicine by the eminent surgeon Dr. James R. Andrews at American Sports Medicine Institute in Birmingham, AL. He then completed another fellowship at Sportsmed SA, in Adelaide, South Australia. He joined Hampshire Orthopedics (now Cooley Dickinson Health Care) in Northampton, MA, in 1996. McBride was highly involved with the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he provided care weekly at University Health Services, as well as orthopedic athletic injury care at training room facilities. In addition, he provided sideline football coverage for the University of Massachusetts. McBride was survived by his wife, Xueli Yu; his son, Daniel; his mother, Dorothy; brothers David and Devon; and sister Deanna.

## 1992

**GARY SCLAR**, of New York, NY, died April 12, 2020, from COVID-19. Dr. Sclar was a neurologist at Mount Sinai Queens in New York City. He was deeply compassionate with a blunt bedside manner. His work was his passion. Sclar was survived by a son and a daughter.

## Residents

**MARIE B. BARRY**, of Camillus, NY, died November 11, 2021. Dr. Barry graduated from Georgetown Medical School as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Society in 1955. She was one of 11 women in her class and one of five women who graduated. She did her pediatric residency at St. Michael's Hospital in Newark, NJ, and Upstate. She later worked as a school physician and medical educator for several schools in the Central New York area. Barry was survived by her daughters, Brenda, Brigid, and Marijo; sons Joseph, William, and Brian; and six grandchildren.

**YALE CITRIN**, of Brooklyn, New York, died February 6, 2020. Dr. Citrin was a board-certified gastroenterologist and a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He was a physician for 52 years in Hollywood, FL, where he served as chief of medicine at Hollywood Memorial Hospital and co-founded and served as chief of staff of Hollywood Medical Center. He discovered Citrin Deficiency Syndrome, which was named after him. Citrin was survived by his wife, Georgia; daughters Jane, Carolyn, and Elizabeth; sons Thomas, Andrew, and Benjamin; 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**FREDERICK SHIU FAI HO**, of Syracuse, NY, died February 16, 2021. Dr. Ho graduated from Hong Kong University Medical School. He trained to become a pediatrician and family practitioner. He did a residency in pediatrics at Upstate. He had a family practice with his brother Kenneth Ho, MD, and served the Camillus, NY, community for more than 30 years. He also performed many school physicals for West Genesee High School. Ho was survived by his wife, Enid; daughters Ellen, Winifred, and Angeline; son John; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**MICHAEL H. KLEIN**, of Manlius, NY, died October 30, 2021. Dr. Klein graduated from SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine. He served his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Upstate and then established his practice in Syracuse. Klein was survived by his daughters, Heather, Rachel, and Sarah; and two grandsons.

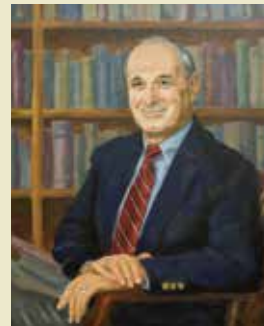
**EDWIN SHIELDS KREMER**, Jr, of Erie, PA, died July 18, 2021. Dr. Kremer was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1945. He was sent to Europe, serving in both Germany and Italy until honorably discharged in February 1947. He completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology. From 1959 to 1993, he had a solo practice in Erie, PA, delivering more than 6,000 newborns. He was on staff at Hamot and Saint Vincent Hospitals and acted as coordinator for the OB/GYN residency during its existence. He was chairman of the OB/GYN department at Saint Vincent Hospital from 1980 to 1985. Kremer was survived by his children, Leigh, Janet, Eric, Mark, Jill, Gregory, Fritz, Mathew, and Katherine; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**JEFFREY S. PEVNICK**, of St. Louis, MO, died August 15, 2021. He graduated from the University of Missouri Medical School and was proud to complete one year of a clinical pathology internship at Upstate. He then spent two years in Lexington, KY, working in addiction research, where he published many papers that are still referenced today. He completed his psychiatric residency in St. Louis, where he was a prominent psychiatrist for 40 years. He was president of the medical staff at St. Alexius Hospital, ran a drug addiction clinic, and treated patients in his private practice. Pevnick was survived by his wife, Barbara; four sons; and five grandchildren.

**JAMES G. TARTER**, of Belleville, IL, died November 16, 2020. Dr. Tarter attended the University of Illinois College of Medicine-Peoria. He completed his internship at Upstate in 1994 and began radiology training at St. Louis University Hospital, where he was chief resident in 1998. He completed a musculoskeletal fellowship and for 20 years practiced at many hospitals in the greater St. Louis area. He owned and practiced at Advanced Imaging Consultants at his time of death. Tarter was survived by his wife Shelia Ann; sons Alex, Benjamin, and Samuel; and daughter Gabrielle.

## Faculty and Staff

**A. GENO ANDREATTA**, of Jamesville, NY, died December 12, 2021. Born in Weed, CA, Andreatta twice summited Mount Shasta before enlisting in the Air Force, where he served three years during the Korean War. He attended San Francisco State College on the GI Bill, where he met his wife, Ellen. The couple moved to Syracuse so Andreatta could pursue graduate study at Syracuse



A. Geno Andreatta

University. He joined the Upstate College of Medicine in 1963 as an administrative assistant to the dean of Admissions and Student Affairs and as an instructor in the School of Allied Health Sciences, where he taught medical anthropology to future doctors and nurses for nearly a decade. Andreatta moved through the ranks as the assistant director, director, assistant dean, and finally, dean of Admissions and Student Affairs for Upstate. As an assistant professor during the early part of his career, he served as co-director of a research project on physician shortage and health care in rural New York and as an advisor to the Rural Medical Service Committee of the Medical Society of the State of New York. Andreatta retired from SUNY Upstate in 1995. As emeritus, he served on the Board of Directors for the Medical Alumni Foundation. During retirement, he and Ellen traveled, exploring history, culture, food, and wine. He became an excellent home winemaker and won several first-place medals at the New York State Fair Home Winemaking Competition. Andreatta was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Ellen. He was survived by their three children, daughters Susan and Cindy; son Stephen; two granddaughters; and his older sister, Velma. Donations can be made in memory of Andreatta's years of dedication to the A. Geno Andreatta Scholarship at Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation, Setnor Academic Bldg. #1510, 750 E. Adams St, Syracuse, NY 13210 or online at [medalumni.upstate.edu/scholarshipgifts](http://medalumni.upstate.edu/scholarshipgifts).

# IN MEMORIAM

## Emeritus Faculty

**C. THOMAS FRUEHAN**, of DeWitt, NY, died December 21, 2020. Dr. Fruehan served in the U.S. Navy before receiving his medical degree from Albany Medical College in 1963, and an internship there in 1964. He completed a residency, chief residency, and fellowship in cardiology at Upstate, where he joined the faculty in 1969. He dedicated his time to teaching and mentoring students, house staff, and fellows, working in and overseeing the coronary care unit and EKG departments. Fruehan was survived by his wife, Karen; daughters Leonore and Carol; and five grandchildren.



**WILLIAM H. MARX**, DO, of Manlius, NY, died on February 9, 2022. Dr. Marx was professor of surgery and critical care at Upstate and division chief of trauma, burns, and acute care surgery at Upstate University Hospital. Marx also served as the hospital's trauma medical director and operating room director, having worked continuously at Upstate and the Syracuse VA

Medical Center for almost 30 years. Marx served as chair of the New York State Trauma Advisory Committee, chair of the Verification Review Committee, and was a member of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. He was instrumental in the creation of new trauma center standards to be released this year, which will be used in trauma centers nationwide. Marx earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri and his medical degree from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine. He accepted the Army Medical Scholarship and completed his internship, general surgery residency, and surgical critical care fellowship at Letterman Army Medical Center. Marx spent 22 years with the U.S. Army Medical Corps where he served in Operation Desert Storm and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring in 2001. Marx was survived by his wife of 37 years, Charlene; and their children, Courtney, Whitney, and David.

**STANLEY L. ERNEY**, of Endwell, NY, died January 25. Dr. Erney was a mathematics teacher after college and was then drafted in the U.S. Army for a short period of time. He was honorably discharged due to a desperate need for science and math teachers. He then decided to attend medical school and become a physician. He received his degree from Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University in 1964 and completed internship and residency in the U.S. Public Health Service at hospitals in San Francisco, CA, Norfolk, VA, and the Indian Medical Center in Gallup, NM. In 1971, he was recruited by Wilson Memorial Medical center in Binghamton, NY, as program director to start a new residency in family medicine. Family medicine had just been certified as a specialty in 1970 and the discipline was still evolving. Erney instituted a collaborative team approach using allied health professionals and expanded nursing roles with preventive and public health focus. He merged mental health care with physical health care to address the issues of his patients. He became director of ambulatory services at Wilson and then was recruited by the Upstate Medical College of Medicine to serve as program director in family medicine for the clinical campus in Binghamton. In 1976, he began an innovative continuity of care program that placed third-year medical students in the community office of primary care doctors on a weekly basis for a year. In 1993, he received the Excellence in Teaching Award from Upstate, and in 1994, received the Family Educator of the Year Award from the New York State Academy of family physicians and the Clinical Campus Dean's Award for Outstanding Faculty Service. Upon retirement, he was appointed Professor Emeritus in the Department of Family Medicine. Erney was survived by his wife, Dorothy; children **Trent '89**, Trena, Troy, Treavor and **Tracy '99**; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**ROBERT HSU**, PhD, of Thousand Oaks, CA, died November 25, 2021. Dr. Hsu came to America in 1950 from China and Taiwan. He was a survivor of the Sino-Japanese War and the Communist Revolution. He obtained his master's degrees from the University of Iowa and Cornell University and earned a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He pursued his postdoctoral studies at University of Wisconsin and started his career as a professor of biochemistry at Rutgers University. He later joined the faculty at Upstate, where he spent the remainder of his career. At Upstate, Hsu conducted NIH-funded explorations into lipid metabolism while teaching medical students biochemistry. Hsu was survived by his sons, David and Hanson; and two grandchildren.

**ROBERT H. SAGERMAN**, of Rhinebeck, NY, died February 1. Dr. Sagerman was a pioneering physician in the creation of modern radiation oncology. He graduated from New York University Medical School in 1955. He worked at Meadowbrook Hospital on Long Island during the final polio epidemic. He then went to Charity Hospital in New Orleans where he trained as a radiologist. He was drafted into the U.S. Airforce during the Korean War and was stationed at Ladd Airforce Base in the Alaska Territory, where he was the northern-most radiologist in the western hemisphere. After his military service, Sagerman worked at Montefiore Hospital. In 1961 he worked at Stanford University Hospital and trained in the nascent field of radiation therapy under Henry Kaplan. He then returned to New York to work at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He established the department of radiation therapy at Upstate and served as chairman of the department until 1994. He specialized in tumors of the eye and tumors in children. He wrote the premier textbook on tumors of the eye and published more than 240 peer-reviewed papers. He established training and review programs and protocols for technicians, physicians, and entire departments in the field of radiation oncology. He trained hundreds of physicians and medical students and treated thousands of patients. Sagerman was survived by his wife Malyne; sons Jason, Eric, Evan and Roger; and five grandchildren.

# Generation to Generation

Excellence in  
Medicine

## The Lynch Family Scholarship

**David Lynch, MD '75**

“**M**y wife Tisch and I met while she was a student nurse at Syracuse University, and I was a medical student at Upstate. We were married during my sophomore year. Tisch began work in the neonatal ICU and we welcomed our first daughter, Jessica, during my senior year. As you can imagine, it was a busy time, but I had a Regents Scholarship that paid for my tuition, which made it possible for our little family to support ourselves and thrive during those years. Tisch and I know that the cost of an Upstate medical education has risen considerably. That is why our family chose to help ease the burden for the next generation by endowing a scholarship. We believe Upstate Medical University is a gem. It provided a quality education, wonderful teachers, and lifetime friendships, all leading to a successful career and comfortable life for our family. We hope our scholarship can help others achieve the same.”



**Tisch and David Lynch, MD '75**



**The Lynches with their four daughters and families at their annual summer family vacation.**

### Campaign Update

Thanks to the generosity of the many alumni such as Dr. Lynch, our Generation to Generation/Excellence in Medicine Campaign is \$4 million closer to our \$15 million goal, having raised \$10.5 million since our kickoff in September 2021. Philanthropy is individually motivated and everyone's situation is different. Our committee and staff stand ready to help you explore ways to participate in the Generation to Generation Campaign. For more information, please contact our office at 315-464-4361

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# Reunion

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UPSTATE MEDICAL ALUMNI FOUNDATION

## 147th Reunion

NORTON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

SEPTEMBER 16 – 17, 2022