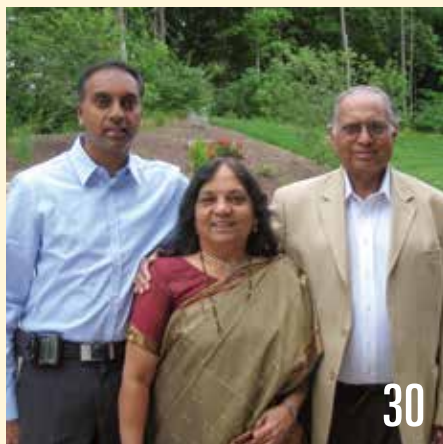


UPSTATE MEDICAL Alumni JOURNAL

WINTER 2025 PUBLISHED BY UPSTATE MEDICAL ALUMNI FOUNDATION

OUTSTANDING IN THEIR FIELDS

Alumni award winners Caitlin Bernard, MD '10,
Sister Mary Felice, MD '90, and Mark Wolraich, MD '70



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WINTER 2025 ISSUE

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ON THE COVER: 2025

Medical Alumni Foundation award winners: Caitlin Bernard, MD '10, Outstanding Young Alumna; Sister Mary Felice, MD '90, Humanitarian; and Mark Wolraich, MD '70, Distinguished Alumnus

Upstate Honors Pioneering Physicians at Sculpture Unveiling

Upstate Medical University is honoring two of its earliest and most influential graduates with two statues on the Weiskotten courtyard.

Statues honoring Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, and Sarah Loguen Fraser, MD, were unveiled on October 23 and now flank the entrance to Upstate's main academic building.

Blackwell was the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States, graduating as valedictorian in 1849 from Geneva College of Medicine, which today is SUNY Upstate Medical University. She later founded the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. Sarah Loguen Fraser, MD, class of 1876, was one of the nation's first female African American physicians and the first female doctor in the Dominican Republic.

"These beautiful sculptures . . . will forever grace what I like to call the Courtyard of the Founding Mothers," says Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79. "Every day, these two women will loudly declare that we have welcomed all deserving people for 150 years and commit—in bronze—to welcoming all people for another 150 years."

Internationally recognized sculptor Carolyn Palmer created the bronze statues, which each stand 6-foot-2 inches high and weigh 400 pounds. She said she was inspired by their trailblazing work and tried to reflect their passion, vision, and strength in bronze.



Students unveil the sculpture of Elizabeth Blackwell, who became the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States. The statue, along with that of Sarah Loguen Fraser, sits in the courtyard of Weiskotten Hall. Right: Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79, with sculptor, Carolyn Palmer





The first cohort of Upstate's North Country Medical Scholars includes, left to right: second-year student Sarah Hoh; first-year student Cole Carpenter; third-year student Rachel Milone; and second-year student Mairead Lawliss.

Upstate and Hudson Headwaters Launch North Country Medical Scholars Partnership

Upstate Medical University's Norton College of Medicine and Hudson Headwaters Health Network have joined forces to launch the North Country Medical Scholars Program, a new initiative designed to increase the number of physicians serving rural and underserved communities across the greater Glens Falls, Adirondack, and Plattsburgh regions.

The program supports students who are from or have strong ties to the communities served by Hudson Headwaters' eight-county region, which includes Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Fulton, Hamilton, Essex, Clinton, and Franklin counties.

Selected scholars are eligible to receive up to \$45,000 per year for as many as four years of medical school tuition assistance. In return, recipients commit to working with Hudson Headwaters one year for every year of financial support received.

Hudson Headwaters Health Network is a nonprofit system of 26 community health centers providing comprehensive primary care across 7,900 square miles of the Adirondack North Country and Glens Falls region.

According to Robert F. Ruiz, Upstate's interim vice president for educational services and dean of student affairs, the program's goals are to recruit and retain talented students from the North Country, reduce the financial burden of medical education, and help meet the region's growing need for primary care physicians.

"The emphasis is on growing the physician workforce for the North Country, making medical school more financially accessible for students from the region, and—most importantly—delivering more comprehensive care to the people of New York State," Ruiz says.

The first cohort of Upstate's North Country Medical Scholars includes first-year student Cole Carpenter; second-year students Mairead Lawliss and Sarah Hoh; and third-year student Rachel Milone.

"This initiative is important to Upstate and to the communities we serve," says Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79. "Our partnership with Hudson Headwaters reflects our shared commitment to rural medicine and expands our longstanding pledge to improve access to care in underserved regions."

Amar Suryadevara, MD '03, HS '08, named Chair of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences

Amar Suryadevara, MD '03, HS '08, has been named chair of the Department of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences. He previously served as interim chair of the department since 2021, during which time he grew the department to more than 80 members across various sites, including 15 faculty members.

"Dr. Suryadevara has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, and a deep commitment to advancing the department," says Lawrence Chin, MD, dean of the Norton College of Medicine. "We are grateful for his continued leadership of this important clinical department."

Suryadevara completed his otolaryngology residency at Upstate and his fellowship in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is currently board-certified in both otolaryngology and head and neck surgery and facial plastic reconstructive surgery.

He joined the Upstate faculty in July 2009 and was named a professor in the Department of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences in 2022. Additionally, he has served as the director of the Otolaryngology Residency Program (2014-2024) and co-director of the Facial Plastic Surgery Fellowship (2018-present). He also is affiliated with the VA Medical Center.

Suryadevara has been published in dozens of peer-reviewed publications and has written several book chapters that are included in important texts, including *The Art and Craft of Facial Rejuvenation Surgery*. In addition to presenting his work both nationally and internationally, he was recently a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons multidisciplinary performance measure development workgroup on reconstruction after skin cancer resection. He also serves as Chair of the Evidence-Based Medicine and Research Committee for the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.



Amar Suryadevara, MD '03, HS '08

Gregory Conners, MD, MPH, MBA, Named First B. Thomas Golisano Professor of Pediatrics

Gregory Conners, MD, MPH, MBA, chair of the Department of Pediatrics and executive director of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, has been named the nation's first B. Thomas Golisano Professor of Pediatrics.

This newly established endowed professorship honors Conners' exceptional leadership in pediatric medicine and his national impact on pediatric emergency care, education, and advocacy. The professorship is named in recognition of Tom Golisano and his steadfast support of children's health.

"Dr. Conners exemplifies the very best of academic medicine—clinical excellence, visionary leadership, and a deep commitment to serving children and families," says Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79, president of Upstate Medical University. "We are immensely grateful to Tom Golisano for his extraordinary generosity, which continues to elevate pediatric care at Upstate and beyond."

"I am deeply honored to be named the inaugural B. Thomas Golisano Professor of Pediatrics," says Conners.

"This recognition reflects the tireless work of our entire team at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue advancing the care, education, and advocacy that every child deserves. I am especially humbled that this professorship carries the name of Tom Golisano, whose extraordinary generosity is transforming children's health care."

Conners joined Upstate in 2019. Under his leadership, Upstate was ranked as having the 17th best pediatric care in the nation and second best in New York, by *Forbes* magazine.

As the B. Thomas Golisano Professor of Pediatrics, Conners will continue to guide the Department of Pediatrics and Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in advancing clinical care, academic excellence, and community engagement—building on a career defined by impact, innovation, and service.



Gregory Conners, MD, MPH, MBA

A WEEKEND OF Connection, Legacy, and Impact

Upstate Medical Alumni
Reunion
Celebration | Tradition | Connection



Old friends. Inspiring mentors. New facilities. Classes ending in 0 and 5 returned to Syracuse September 19-20 for Upstate's Norton College of Medicine Reunion 2025. Alumni reconnected with faculty members who shaped their calling, explored new cutting-edge campus facilities, and reminisced over cocktails and class dinners.

Friday's awards ceremony reminded everyone the impact of giving back. Thanks to alumni generosity, \$1.9 million in endowment and direct funds provided 182 scholarship awards to medical students following in their footsteps. Alumni also honored three physicians whose careers embody Upstate's values: Distinguished Alumnus Mark Wolraich, MD '70, Outstanding Young Alumna Caitlin Bernard, MD '10, and Humanitarian Sister Mary Felice, MD '90. Their journeys—detailed in the pages ahead—inspire us all. We look forward to seeing you again in 2030!





Care Beyond Sym

Distinguished Alumnus Mark Wolraich, MD '70, reshaped the understanding and treatment of ADHD and changed the way medicine cares for the whole child.

2025
Award Winner

When Mark Wolraich, MD '70, decided in high school that he wanted to become a doctor, he could not have imagined the profound impact his career would have on millions of children and families around the world. Over more than five decades, his work has transformed how physicians understand and treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and advanced a model of pediatric care that looks far beyond symptoms to address the needs of the whole child.

In September, the Upstate Medical Alumni

Foundation recognized Wolraich's lifetime of achievement with its Distinguished Alumnus Award—a fitting honor for a physician whose compassion, curiosity, and rigor have shaped modern developmental and behavioral pediatrics.

Growing up in New York City—first in the Bronx, then on Long Island—Wolraich was drawn to science early on. After earning his undergraduate degree in chemistry from SUNY Harpur College (now Bing-

hamton University), he entered Upstate Medical University, where a clinical rotation would change the course of his life.

“Of all the rotations I had in medical school, the one that was the friendliest and most interesting for me was pediatrics,” he recalls. “I didn’t warm up as much to the others as I did to working with children.”

But it wasn’t just pediatrics that captured his imagination. It was the people—three extraordinary mentors—who showed him how deeply medicine could touch children’s lives.

THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP

Julius Richmond, MD, dean of the College of Medicine and chair of pediatrics, had just returned from Washington, DC, where he and educator Betty Caldwell co-created the federal Head Start program. “He really set an example of what you could do beyond the exam room to improve children’s health,” Wolraich says. Dr. Richmond met weekly with students on pediatric rotations and those discussions opened Wolraich’s eyes to the physician’s role in public policy.

Howard Weinberger, MD '58, introduced him to the rigor of clinical research, demonstrating how to balance excellent clinical care with rigorous academic research—a model that would define Wolraich’s own career. “He had a particular support and interest in me over the two years that I was there,” says Wolraich.

But perhaps the most transformative influence came from Ted DeBono, MD, who worked with children with developmental disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities. Dr. DeBono had established an interdisciplinary clinic that included psychologists, therapists (PT, OT and speech clinicians) and educators alongside physicians—a novel approach at the time.



Mark Wolraich, MD '70

mptoms

“It was exciting to see how people in disciplines other than medicine looked at children and took care of them,” Wolraich says. “I really enjoyed being able to work together in a clinic model, which had multiple disciplines involved in both the evaluation and services provided to the children.”

Through an elective with DeBono, including exposure to the Syracuse State School (one of the institutions that then served individuals with intellectual disabilities), Wolraich gained insight into state services and programs. By his internship year, he knew with certainty that he wanted to pursue caring for children with developmental disabilities.

“These children in particular require coordinated care that focuses not just on medical care, but also on their educational needs,” he says. “And that it was important as physicians for us to think more broadly about what their needs would be, particularly on how the kids do in school.”

AN UNEXPECTED DETOUR

As he was completing his intern year at Upstate in 1971, Wolraich’s career took an unexpected turn due to the Vietnam War. Although he had an offer of a one-year naval deferment, a friend suggested he apply to the Indian Health Service because of his interest in Native American families, sparked by exposure to the Onondaga Nation near Syracuse.

Through what he describes as “sheer luck,” he secured a position at the Phoenix Indian Hospital, which had recently lost its pediatric accreditation and needed general medical officers with pediatric backgrounds. For two years, he served diverse Native American populations from nine native nations across Arizona. This experience reinforced his commitment to comprehensive, culturally sensitive care—principles that would guide his work throughout his career.

By the time the Vietnam War ended and Wolraich could return to complete his pediatric residency, posi-



Wolraich and wife Debra on graduation day, 1970

tions were scarce. Based on a recommendation from a colleague who had trained there, he completed his residency at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He had no plans to ever return. “It was too conservative for us,” he says.

Life, however, had other plans. But first came a fellowship in “care of handicapped children,” now called developmental and behavioral pediatrics, at the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland from 1974 to 1976. He and his wife Debra had fallen in love with the Pacific Northwest during a summer position in Seattle in 1968, shortly after their wedding, and Oregon represented a return to a region they cherished.

It was during this fellowship that Wolraich’s research career truly began to flourish. He started focusing on a condition then called Minimal Brain Dysfunction (MBD), now known as ADHD. The condition had first captured his attention back at Syracuse through his work with DeBono, who treated children with MBD using medications such as methylphenidate (Ritalin) and dextro-amphetamine. In Oregon, Wolraich was able to conduct studies and publish his first research on the condition.

LAUNCHING A RESEARCH CAREER

In 1976, Wolraich accepted his first faculty appointment at the University of Iowa Hospital School, launching what would become a 14-year tenure. The position offered everything he had been seeking: the opportunity to practice, teach, and conduct research in an interdisciplinary setting.

At Iowa, Wolraich established himself as a leading researcher in developmental and behavioral pediatrics. He took on the spina bifida program and worked with children with cerebral palsy and other conditions, but his primary research focus remained on ADHD—by then renamed Attention Deficit Disorder, and eventually Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in the mid-1970s.

He also tackled one of the most persistent and problematic myths in pediatrics: the belief that sugar causes hyperactivity in children. “There had been—and unfortunately, still continues to be—the myth that sugar was adversely affecting kids’ behavior and that’s why they were having hyperactivity,” Wolraich explains.

Securing a grant from the National Institutes of Health, he designed what would become a landmark study. The research was extraordinarily rigorous: his team provided all food to participating families throughout the study period, used different sweeteners (saccharin and another artificial sweetener) in a controlled design, and made families believe the diet changed weekly when it actually changed every three weeks across three conditions.

“We had a van set up as an evaluation room where they could test the children weekly,” he says. “We made it look like the diets changed weekly by the vegetables and other food we provided.” The study included teacher and parent rating scales, direct observation, and neuropsychological testing.

The results were as definitive as possible. “At the end of it, we could find no relationship between what diet the children ate and their behavior or learning,” Wolraich says. “It was really a definitive negative study.

It’s pretty rare to have something that set.”

Yet the myth persists. “Despite that, I still have calls asking about diet playing a role in behavior,” he says.

At Iowa, Wolraich also secured grants to study the effects of better training for pediatricians caring for children with ADHD. Throughout his research, he maintained close collaborations with psychologists—particularly Scott Lindgren, PhD, who served as co-investigator on both the sugar study and ADHD research.

By 1990, having reached the rank of full professor, Wolraich was ready for new challenges. When an opportunity arose at Vanderbilt University Medical School, he seized it.

As director of the Division of Child Development at Vanderbilt, Wolraich spent 11 years expanding clinical services, research, and training programs. It was during this period that he completed work on what would become one of his most enduring contributions: the Vanderbilt ADHD Rating Scale.

The scale’s name reflects Wolraich’s practical approach and sense of humor. He and his team needed a good measurement tool for their studies, but existing scales were proprietary and expensive, and weren’t adequate for his needs. So, he developed his own, starting the work at Iowa and finishing it at Vanderbilt.

“I decided to call it the Vanderbilt scale, although Vanderbilt University did not provide any particular resources. But if I named it after myself, which is what some of the other scales had done, most people wouldn’t be able to pronounce the name right,” he says with a laugh. The scale is now used worldwide and has become a standard tool for diagnosing and monitoring ADHD.

Beyond his research, Wolraich played a crucial role in establishing developmental and behavioral pediatrics as a formally recognized subspecialty. Working with colleagues from the Society for Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics (SDBP), he helped facilitate its approval as a new subspecialty in pediatrics. He also served as president of SDBP, helping to shape the field’s development and standards.

FULL CIRCLE

In 2000, Wolraich made a decision that surprised even him: he accepted an endowed chair at the University of Oklahoma, becoming the Shawn Walters Professor of Pediatrics—returning to the state he once thought he’d never revisit. He would spend the final 20 years of his career there, expanding services, research, and educational programs for children with disabilities throughout Oklahoma.

One of his most significant accomplishments during this period was developing a service navigation program for children with disabilities that eventually served most counties in Oklahoma. The program helped families navigate the complex landscape of services



Wolraich and wife Debra at a book signing event



Wolraich was appointed to an endowed chair at the University of Oklahoma in 2001.

“I really cherish the interdisciplinary approach I learned at Upstate. It shaped everything I did throughout my career and helped countless children receive the comprehensive care they deserved.”

and support available for their children—embodying the comprehensive, family-centered approach that had guided Wolraich’s work since his days with Ted DeBono at Syracuse.

Throughout his career, Wolraich remained active in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), where his influence extended far beyond his own institutions. He helped develop training programs for pediatricians in the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD and played a major role in creating and subsequently revising the Academy’s ADHD Guidelines—documents that have shaped how pediatricians across the country approach the condition.

He also authored AAP books for parents on toilet training and ADHD and edited the organization’s Classification of Child and Adolescent Mental Diagnoses in Primary Care. His scholarly output over his career was prodigious: 24 books, 111 articles, and 50 chapters.

LESSONS FROM A LIFE IN MEDICINE

Wolraich’s contributions have earned him numerous prestigious awards, including the C. Anderson Aldrich Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, induction into the CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) Hall of Fame, and the Career Achievement Award from the Society for Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics.

But perhaps more important than the accolades is the lasting impact of his work. The Vanderbilt ADHD Rating Scale continues to help clinicians accurately diagnose and monitor millions of children. His research debunking the sugar-hyperactivity myth has provided evidence-based guidance to countless families (even if the myth stubbornly persists). His work on AAP guidelines has shaped standard practice across the country. And his advocacy for interdisciplinary care has influenced how medical centers structure their services for children with developmental and behavioral challenges.

Since retiring in 2020, Wolraich continues to contribute to pediatric care through training programs with the REACH Institute. He and wife Debra—whom he met during his senior year of college and married in his second year of medical school—have settled in Connecticut, enjoying outdoor activities and spending time with their children and grandchildren. They maintain close friendships with a group of four couples from college days, gathering each summer and for New Year’s Eve—a tradition that speaks to Wolraich’s capacity for lasting relationships.

Reflecting on his career, Wolraich remains deeply grateful for the foundation he received at Upstate. “I really cherish the interdisciplinary approach I learned at Upstate,” he reflects. “It shaped everything I did throughout my career and helped countless children receive the comprehensive care they deserved.”

As developmental and behavioral pediatrics continues to evolve—with growing recognition of conditions like ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, and learning disabilities—Wolraich’s contributions remain foundational. His insistence on rigorous research, his commitment to interdisciplinary care, and his practical approach to developing tools that clinicians actually use have left an indelible mark on the field.

His story reminds us that the most important question isn’t always “What condition does this child have?” but rather “What does this child need?” Answering that question well requires listening to many voices, drawing on many disciplines, and never forgetting that behind every diagnosis is a child and a family deserving comprehensive, compassionate care. ■

Standing Her Ground

Caitlin Bernard, MD '10, and the fight to preserve reproductive healthcare

2025
Award Winner

Caitlin Bernard, MD'10, is in her car driving from her home in Indianapolis to Champaign, Illinois, where the OB/GYN travels twice monthly to provide medical care at a Planned Parenthood Clinic.

The two-hour drive each way is a perfect time to catch up on books, podcasts, and calls, including with reporters who want to share her story.

Three years ago, Dr. Bernard became a lightning rod in the national abortion debate, transforming her from a locally respected OB/GYN into one of the most recognized physicians in America.

It all started with a phone call she received in June 2022 from a child-abuse pediatrician in Ohio. Would Bernard see a 10-year-old rape victim who needed an abortion but had just passed Ohio's newly imposed six-week limit?

As horrifying as that scenario is to many of us, the urgent request was not unusual for Bernard. "Unfortunately, these stories are very common in our world," she says.

It came just three days after the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and the consequences were already becoming devastatingly obvious. When an *Indianapolis Star* reporter overheard Bernard mention the case at a rally and asked to include it in an article, she agreed—never identifying the patient.

The story went viral. President Joseph Biden referenced it in an executive order announcement. Media outlets worldwide covered it as dramatic evidence of post-Dobbs America. Then came the backlash: accusations that Bernard had fabricated the story, an investigation by Indiana's Republican attorney general, claims that she had failed to maintain professional standards, and a reprimand from the state medical licensing board

"In many ways, there's nothing special about me or the stories that I've told. So, I've really tried to the best of my ability to represent the voices of my colleagues and our patients across the country."

for allegedly breaching patient privacy—an allegation both Bernard and her employer, Indiana University School of Medicine, rejected as politically motivated.

During a 14-hour hearing, as white-coated colleagues sat behind her in solidarity, Bernard faced intense, even personal, questioning. "Do you have a tattoo of a coat hanger that says, 'Trust Women'?" one deputy attorney general asked. (She does, on her foot.)

Bernard received death threats requiring security measures, faced harassment from politicians and pundits, and saw her professional record tarnished. The experience was "very scary," she says. "Not knowing exactly what was going to happen; not knowing if this was going to impact my ability to continue working where I work, my ability to continue

round

seeing patients. And certainly, I was scared for my personal safety and for the safety of my family.”

Yet support poured in. Colleagues raised nearly \$100,000 for her legal defense. Hundreds of Indiana doctors signed an open letter in her support. National organizations honored her courage: the ACLU of Indiana’s Sig Beck Award, the AMA Foundation’s Courage in Women’s Health Advocacy Award, and *Time* Magazine’s list of the 100 most influential people of 2022. She was profiled in *Vanity Fair* and the *New Yorker*. In September, she was honored at her 15-year College of Medicine Reunion as the 2025 Outstanding Young Alumna.

“In many ways, there’s nothing special about me or the stories that I’ve told,” says Bernard. “So, I’ve really tried to the best of my ability to represent the voices of my colleagues and our patients across the country who are dealing with all of the exact same things that I’m dealing with.”

A NEW REALITY

Bernard loves being an OB/GYN. “It’s a really unique way to be able to support women at a critical time in their life during a pregnancy, whether that’s unplanned or planned and wanted,” she says. “Whether they’re having complications or just having a happy, healthy delivery, you can really be a good supporter for them.”

But her current work life reflects the fragmented reality of reproductive healthcare in America. Recently promoted to associate professor and serving as director for Indiana University’s Division of Complex Family Planning, Bernard splits her time between providing complex family planning care within Indiana University’s hospital system—the only legal abortions in the state—and traveling to Planned Parenthood in Illinois to provide care for Indiana residents who don’t meet the strict exceptions. She also maintains a full OB/GYN practice, covering labor and delivery, taking over-night hospital calls, and staffing emergency rooms.

“The amount of work that we have to put in for each



Caitlin Bernard, MD '10

individual patient to be able to get the care that they need is really tremendous,” she explains. Each potential abortion in Indiana requires consultation with at least two physicians, including a high-risk OB specialist, extensive documentation, and careful legal review.

“We have policies and protocols in place at the institution level, which has obviously taken a lot of work to develop with lawyers and administrators,” she says. “But at the end of the day, we really don’t know what could happen if somebody disagreed with us. Our state government has certainly made it clear they intend to enforce the law.”

Bernard fields calls from physicians across Indiana who have “really quite sick” patients who would benefit from abortion care but are afraid to even advise it as an option. “Certainly, there’s nothing in the Indiana law that says that you can’t advise a patient that an abortion would be helpful, but physicians are still very scared,” she says.

The consequences reach far beyond access. Three maternity hospitals in northern Indiana have closed since the abortion ban took effect, partly due to difficulty staffing them with physicians. Bernard has seen an increase in requests for permanent sterilization from women worried about pregnancy complications. She counsels patients worried about getting pregnant because of previous complications during pregnancy. “If that happens again, and I poten-



Bernard in front of the U.S. Supreme Court during a 2017 leadership training institute hosted by Physicians for Reproductive Health

tially need what might be considered abortion care, would my life and my health be put in jeopardy because I can't access that care?" they ask.

Bernard is also training the next generation of OB/GYNs and worries about the future of women's health-care. Applications to OB/GYN residencies in states with abortion bans have dropped nearly seven percent.

"At first, we saw increased interest," she says. "But as more states ban abortion and fear rises, students are second-guessing taking this on as a career because of the risk associated with it."

Still, she encourages them. "It's a wonderful field. There's nothing else I would ever want to do," she said. "But advocacy is now absolutely part of the job."

Practicing in a conservative state, Bernard knows her activism has made an impact. "Pushing institutions to do the right thing for patients and for their doctors is definitely a big part of what I do," she says.

"I think I've been successful in changing the culture of my institution to recognize the importance of our role. If we're not here, there's literally no one to take care of these women," she says. "Whatever their personal beliefs, the administrators, the lawyers, the nurses, the other physicians that I work with really understand that this is life-saving medical care that needs to be preserved."

ROOTS OF ADVOCACY

Bernard's path to activism was set long before medical school. Born in 1984 on a communal farm in Binghamton, New York, she grew up in a household where social justice was a core value.

Her father, a carpenter and community organizer, brought her on volunteer trips to Puerto Rico to build playgrounds and install septic tanks. Her mother, a laboratory researcher, took young Caitlin to Take Back the Night marches.

"It was really impressed upon me that it's important to kind of find something that can help you contribute to the world," Bernard says of her upbringing.

By high school, she knew she wanted to become an OB/GYN. While studying at Binghamton University, she volunteered as a doula and at Southern Tier Women's Health Services, the clinic once targeted by militant anti-abortion activist Randall Terry. Bernard saw firsthand how the reproductive rights community—her parents included—rallied to protect and support the clinic. "Showing them that they were protected made a lasting impression," she says.

When Bernard entered Upstate Medical University in 2006, she found a mentor who would help shape her career: Phil Ferro, MD '54, one



Bernard's clinical work encompasses the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, from routine obstetrics to complex pregnancy complications and contraceptive care.



Bernard with fellow class of 2010 alumnae at Reunion 2025

of New York's first abortion providers, who had performed the procedure even prior to Roe.

Dr. Ferro's stories of women who had died from unsafe abortions and physicians who practiced in secrecy made clear the stakes of reproductive freedom.

"He and others of his generation felt they had to hide, that they couldn't be public about what they were doing, even though they knew it was right," Bernard says. "I really believed it could be different, that we could make progress from his career to mine and be public about why this work is important and necessary."

Another influential figure, Peter J. Cronkright, MD, ran migrant farmworker clinics where Bernard volunteered. These physicians helped provide Bernard with more than clinical skills; they gave her a moral framework and a sense of mission.

After completing her residency at Upstate in 2014, Bernard spent a year in Kenya with AMPATH, a collaborative focused on sustainable, equitable healthcare led by Indiana University and the Kenyan government. She then pursued a fellowship in complex family planning at Washington University in St. Louis, earning a master's in clinical investigation along the way.

It was there that her advocacy sharpened. As Missouri lawmakers advanced increasingly restrictive abortion legislation, Bernard testified against measures designed to limit access.

In 2017, she joined the faculty at Indiana University School of Medicine with two clear goals: to continue her global health work with AMPATH and to build the university's Complex Family Planning Program in a state already hostile to reproductive rights. She also began working with Planned Parenthood clinics in Indianapolis, Bloomington, Louisville, and eventually—after Indiana's abortion ban—Champaign, Illinois.

Her work extended beyond clinical care to education and institutional change. She developed curricula for medical students on pregnancy options counseling,

created surgical simulation training for residents, and pushed administrators to improve access to reproductive healthcare.

Bernard's own advocacy continues on multiple fronts. She serves as co-legislative chair for ACOG's Indiana section, provides expert testimony in legal challenges to abortion restrictions, speaks at national conferences, and writes op-eds. In November 2024, she spoke at the Association of American Medical Colleges annual meeting on a panel titled "How can we confront the criminalization of medicine?"

She maintains her global health work with AMPATH in Kenya, overseeing educational programs and research. To recharge, she practices yoga, spends time outdoors, and visits family scattered across the country.

BALANCING MISSION AND RISK

Bernard and her husband—with whom she has two young children, ages three and six—have discussed moving to another state. But the idea that people can simply relocate from red states to blue states for safety rings hollow to her.

"We're the United States. We need to stand together wherever we are," she says.

Her mission-driven career is non-negotiable. "That includes providing abortion and ensuring access to reproductive health care in places where it's not easily accessible," she says. "I don't think that I would be as happy not doing that, but it is hard, sometimes, to balance against the risks."

That determination reflects lessons from Dr. Ferro and the generation of providers who provided abortion care in the years before Roe. "I don't intend to go back into the shadows," Bernard says.

When asked what she wants her medical school peers to know about her career, Bernard turns reflective. "I went to medical school with a very clear plan of what I wanted to do," she says. "The fact that I was able to achieve that is a testament to the support that I received at Upstate, from my mentors, teachers, friends, and colleagues. I'm forever indebted to that."

She says her career illustrates that you can make a big impact in ways you never expect or anticipate. "When we support each other, no matter what our specialties are, we hopefully can see progress in access to care and move towards social justice together."

That collaborative vision—rooted in the communal values of her childhood and nurtured through her medical training—sustains Bernard through the most difficult days.

"There is something to be said for having a mission-aligned career that is much more than just a job," she says. "I am very thankful for that." ■

A Calling Across

The mission of Sister Mary Felice, MD '90

2025
Award Winner

Sister Mary Felice, MD '90, sits in a conference room in Weiskotten Hall, sharing a PowerPoint presentation about the St. Vincent the Servant General Reference Hospital in Lukolela, Democratic Republic of Congo, where she has served as medical director for 10 years.

The 130-bed hospital is run by the Daughters of Charity, the religious order Sister Mary belongs to. Its facilities are spread across a campus of modest cement-block buildings—all of the bricks

made on site—with separate structures for the emergency room, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, surgery, intensive care, psychiatry, and isolation. Several of these buildings are new, constructed under Sister Mary's oversight, including a much-needed isolation unit for epidemics.

The most recent outbreak—cholera—emerged shortly after Sister Mary left Lukolela in June to visit the United States. Every three years, sisters working abroad are granted a three-month furlough to rest,

reconnect with family, and reenergize before returning to their missions. This year, Sister Mary received a special extension of 22 days so that she could attend Reunion at Upstate and accept recognition from the Medical Alumni Foundation as the 2025 Humanitarian Award recipient. For Sister Mary, it's not about the personal accolade, but the opportunity to share the work of her hospital and community. The need to fundraise is constant.

In a matter of days, she will embark on the long return. The route itself illustrates the hospital's remoteness: Albany to Chicago to Brussels to Kinshasa. From the Congolese capital, Sister Mary will board a smaller plane to Mbandaka, a city where the Daughters of Charity maintain their provincial house. Then comes the final leg—a boat journey down the Congo River to Lukolela. Under the best circumstances, the trip will take at least a week.

In Mbandaka, she will reunite with sisters from her hospital who have been making their annual retreat and travel together back to Lukolela. If they weren't there, she'd look for a merchant boat heading in the right direction. Three years ago, all flights to Mbandaka were mysteriously canceled and she ended up making the entire journey by boat.

Traveling the river reveals the Congo in all its beauty and difficulty. Along the way, she'll witness village after village with no industry, just camps and nature and people living in rustic housing, who traverse the river in long, narrow pirogues carved from tree trunks. She'll see roadside stands selling fried dough and tea, little boys hawking green vegetables from their mothers' fields, houses with roofs of palm thatch that might someday be replaced with sheet metal as families earn enough money.



Sister Mary Felice, MD '90

Continents



Travel along the Congo River

A HOSPITAL AT THE EDGE OF THE RIVER

Lukolela is a remote river town about 118 miles from the nearest city, accessible mainly by boat. St. Vincent the Servant General Reference Hospital serves as the hub for a vast health district covering nearly 8,700 square miles and a population approaching 200,000.

Families come by canoe, motorcycle taxi, and sometimes bicycle, often arriving in advanced stages of illness because of the distance, the cost, or initial reliance on traditional medicine.

Inside the hospital, modern medicine is performed with limited resources. Despite constant high heat, there is no air conditioning. Sterilization is done with a pressure cooker. Suction during surgery comes from a manual foot pump. Patients' families provide meals, wash clothing, and sleep on the floor beside their loved ones.

And yet, under the Daughters of Charity's leadership, the hospital has flourished. In 2024 alone, it recorded 9,141 patient visits, 3,556 hospitalizations,

801 major surgeries, and 123 cesarean sections.

Malaria, typhoid, tuberculosis, HIV, trypanosomiasis, and malnutrition are constant challenges. Surgeons operate regularly for typhoid-related bowel perforations—cases that are often fatal without timely intervention.

During peak malaria seasons, the pediatric ward may overflow with comatose children, many needing blood transfusions. Sister Mary recalls that before the intensive care building was constructed in 2019, two or three children often shared a bed. "It was intolerable," she says. The new facility offers cubicle partitions, giving each child privacy and better infection control.

Step by step, building by building, Sister Mary has worked to transform a crumbling mid-century hospital into a facility that meets the essential needs of its community.



An annex was recently added to the hospital surgical department, allowing for more space between patient beds.



The new isolation building, used most recently to house patients during a cholera outbreak last summer

DOING MUCH WITH LITTLE

In Weiskotten Hall, Sister Mary clicks through images of construction projects that have transformed the hospital during her tenure. Every brick visible in the photographs was made on site by hired groups who know the craft. Workers carry sand from the river's edge to the hospital grounds—at least half a mile, perhaps more. School children and youth groups from the local parish help transport supplies, a way for schools to earn money to pay teachers who haven't yet made it onto the government payroll, a process that can take years.

The urgency behind this construction becomes clear when Sister Mary shows photos of the old buildings—structures built in 1947, too small, in poor shape, with leaking ceilings and rooms separated only by curtains. In the old emergency room, patients crowded into a main room with just two cubicles branching off. The old internal medicine building was similarly inadequate, beds crammed so close together they touched, the heat oppressive, the lack of space dangerous during epidemic outbreaks.

Now there's a new emergency room and administrative building, blessed and opened on December 23, 2022. It features the hospital's first tile floor. "The employees kidded me that it's going to be like the United States," Sister Mary says. Instead of rooms separated by curtains, there are now four proper examination rooms. Medical records and the administrator's office have dedicated space.

An addition to the surgical building followed, creating more distance between beds and allowing the hospital to better separate clean wounds from dirty wounds. The new internal medicine building, funded in part by the Italian Bishops' Conference, took 11 months to construct. During that time, the hospital faced the difficult challenge of continu-

ing to treat patients while tearing down and rebuilding. They used the surgical addition temporarily for internal medicine patients and started using the new building before it even had windows installed, blocking openings with plywood out of sheer desperation.

The isolation building is perhaps the most crucial addition, as evidenced by a cholera outbreak three weeks after Sister Mary left for the U.S. "Our hospital was particularly hard hit," she says. "We had more than 600 patients in our health district."

Doctors Without Borders came to help. But Sister Mary was half a world away, following the situation remotely, trusting in her staff and the systems in place. Photos arrived on her phone: patients first crowded into the old isolation building, then overflowing into the new facility even though it wasn't finished, beds were placed on a dirt floor while workers frantically completed the pavement in an adjacent room.

Cholera comes roughly every four or five years in Lukolela—rice water diarrhea so profuse it kills through dehydration unless patients receive Ringer's Lactate Solution intravenously. But cholera isn't the only threat. During Sister Mary's tenure, the hospital has also managed epidemics of measles and polio. Last year brought a monkeypox outbreak. She shows a photo of a child with the characteristic lesions. "This little girl did live," she says with relief.

Tuberculosis patients are constant, often exceeding capacity in the hospital's four-bed TB facility. And always, always, there's malaria and typhoid—the two most common diagnoses by far. Patients with severe malaria arrive in comas or needing blood transfusions. They stabilize for two or three days in the intensive care unit before transferring to pediatrics or internal medicine.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Nine sisters live in the house in Lukolela, running the hospital, the school, and social services—all within about a block of each other. Their days begin and end with prayer, bookending the long hours of medical work, administration, and community life.

Life revolves around the river and the community.

Sunday Mass averages three hours, four on feast days, filled with singing and dancing, the congregation moving together in worship. “The people are very adept at singing and dancing spontaneously,” she says. “I think it’s because they don’t have access to radio, television, or internet, so this is their own form of entertainment.”

The feast of St. Vincent brings a massive celebration for hospital and school employees. There’s a soccer game the night before, election of employee of the year, and abundant food preparation. The social service

department celebrates with the poor, giving each person a new shirt or dress.

World Women’s Day on March 8 is another annual milestone. “If I asked you the date, you likely wouldn’t know,” Sister Mary says. “But there, everyone knows it’s March 8.” Women have local seamstresses make special dresses and hold a joyful march around the hospital and through the village. “It’s a very big day. I think it’s because the women work so hard and it’s the one day that they’re honored,” she says.

At 62, Sister Mary has stepped back from surgery. “I don’t operate anymore,” she says. “I leave it to the younger doctors.” She’s also moved from the demanding internal medicine service to pediatrics, which has fewer patients, giving her more time for her administrative duties and to mentor the next generation of physicians.

Her days begin with meetings. Mondays and Tuesdays, she meets with the health district leadership. A part of her responsibilities is to fill in for the head of the health district when he’s away—which is frequently for meetings, training programs and since his family lives in

Mbandaka. Mondays are for planning the week’s activities. Tuesdays bring the painstaking work of infectious disease surveillance.

“There’s a very tight monitoring system,” she says. Every health center and the hospital must report weekly on infectious diseases—how many malaria cases, typhoid cases, whether anyone has presented with measles, Ebola, or other concerning conditions. Every Tuesday, the hospital compiles cases from the week, reviews the report, and transmits it to Mbandaka. Wednesday, Mbandaka holds a meeting and transmits data to Kinshasa. It’s an early warning system, designed to catch epidemics before they explode.



Sister Mary Felice with colleagues at the St. Vincent the Servant General Reference Hospital in Lukolela



A family with an infant patient seeking care at the hospital

If an epidemic is detected and a specimen tests positive, the Provincial Health Department often arranges for a specialist from the World Health Organization to come to guide the response. The system works remarkably well, Sister Mary says, particularly for vaccinations. Children can get immunized for free at any of the 16 health centers in the district if families follow the preschool clinic schedule.

The Health District and Hospital receive free medications for HIV, TB, malaria and trypanosomiasis and leprosy. Sister Mary is not sure how many of these are funded through USAID, but she worries about the impact of the agency's dissolution. "I'm dreading what I'm going to find going back," she admits. The hospital also received free treatment for malnutrition, clearly marked from USAID. "I can't even fathom what we're going to do, because to buy the powdered milk to fabricate it ourselves is so expensive," she says.

Beyond meetings and disease surveillance, Sister Mary does pediatric rounds, conducts patient visits, and performs ultrasounds—the only imaging available at the hospital. As medical director, she handles all the requisitions: medical reports for trauma cases, violence, and sexual assault. These go to local law enforcement at their request.

FAITH, FAMILY, AND FULFILLMENT

Her summer in the United States has been restorative. Sister Mary spent time with family, made an eight-day retreat and connected with other sisters. She visited the Daughters of Charity's all-girls high school in Bladensburg, Maryland, outside Washington, where she shared her PowerPoint presentation with students. "They were very interested and asked a lot of questions," she says.

She's given the same presentation to various organizations, to family members, to gatherings of Sisters. And she's shopped—the practical work of preparing to return. In her luggage will be two handheld nebulizers and two handheld

ultrasound devices that plug into iPads, one for Lukolela and one for a health center that the Daughters of Charity have, located another 5 hours down the river and staffed by Sister Emilienne, a Congolese, Sister-physician along with two other Sisters.

She's also bringing gifts: clothing, balloons for children, jewelry from a friend for the women on World Women's Day, handmade bags in different colors made by another friend for each of the nine sisters in the house.

Despite the challenges, it's clear from the way her face lights up that Sister Mary loves her work and the people she serves.

"Whenever I come back to the United States, after about two months I start getting restless," she says. "If I didn't get restless, perhaps that would say something to me. But it would be hard for me if I couldn't go back."

Sister Mary looks forward to slipping back into a familiar rhythm: early mornings, rounds, consultations, emergencies at all hours. Meetings with staff, with sisters, with community leaders. Planning for the next project—that new OB-GYN department they dream about, the first two-story building with pediatrics and neonatology on the second floor.

Retirement isn't on her mind. "Well, I'm just 62," she says when asked, as if that settles it. She knows sisters in their 80s still on mission. The decision of when to leave, like the decision to come, ultimately rests with her religious order and with what she discerns as God's will.

For now, she carries both worlds with her: the warmth of family connections, the honor of the Humanitarian Award, the renewed energy that comes from rest, and the reassurance that her colleagues handled the cholera crisis and that the hospital continues its work with or without her.

This is the paradox of her vocation: she is both essential and replaceable, uniquely suited to this work yet ultimately just one person serving something far larger than herself.

In the conference room at Weiskotten, Sister Mary closes her PowerPoint presentation. The photos freeze on screen—cement buildings along the river, patients arriving by pirogue, children playing with homemade toys, sisters gathered for prayer. Within weeks, these images won't be photographs but her daily reality.

She's ready to go home. ■

For more about Sister Mary's path to medicine, see the Spring 2022 Alumni Journal. For more about the St. Vincent the Servant General Reference Hospital, visit www.congoriverjourney.org.

A HISTORIC YEAR OF GIVING

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our Norton College of Medicine alumni and friends, the Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation has achieved a record-breaking \$9.3 million in gifts this past year—a testament to your enduring commitment to excellence in medical education.

This historic year also marks the successful completion of our Generation to Generation/Excellence in Medicine campaign, which surpassed its goal by raising more than \$25 million for student scholarships and other endowments. This transformative achievement will open doors for generations of future physicians, helping to ensure that talented students can pursue their calling in medicine regardless of financial circumstances. This year at Reunion, we were able to present 182 scholarship awards worth \$1.9 million to deserving students with financial need.

Your gifts represent more than dollars—they embody the values that unite our alumni community: a dedication to advancing medical education, a commitment to reducing student debt burden, and a shared belief in the power of opportunity. Each scholarship awarded, each student supported, and each barrier removed reflects your investment in the future of medicine and the continuation of Upstate's legacy of excellence.

On behalf of the students whose lives you've changed and the institution you continue to strengthen, we extend our deepest gratitude. This Report of Gifts celebrates your generosity and the lasting impact you are making on medical education.

Thank you for your generosity,

Paul E. Norcross

Paul Norcross
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 Adam Stallmer, MD '07
 Kenneth I. Steinberg, MD '75
 Donald S. Stevens, MD '77
 Dawn M. Sweeney, MD '89
 Nancy J. Tarbell, MD '79
 James A. Terzian, MD '75
 Hollis A. Thomas, MD '67
 Barbara C. Tommasulo, MD '86
 Paul F. Torrisi, MD '72
 Raymond C. Traver, Jr., MD '68
 Willie Underwood, III, MD '94
 Upstate Medical University Foundation
 William S. Varade, MD '82
 Angela Veloudios, MD '84
 Theodore M. Vermont, MD '82
 Gary D. Walford, MD '75
 Jean M. Weigert, MD '80
 Michael A. Weiner, MD '72
 Niesha Westmoreland, MD '03
 Maria E. Wilson, MD '98
 Edward J. Wladis, MD '01
 Mark L. Wolraich, MD '70
 Bradley A. Woodruff, MD '80
 Jack E. Yoffa, MD '69
 Rachel Zehr, MD '12
 Zhandong Zhou and Yingxun Zhu
 Neal Zung, MD '85

Legacy Society

Our Legacy Society honors those who have provided a gift to the Norton College of Medicine in their estate plans. The Legacy Society allows us to give these donors the recognition they deserve during their lifetime.

Peter J. Adasek, MD '65
 Carol L. Bender, MD '72
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 Colonel Bruce Campbell* and Mrs. Marie Campbell*
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 Catherine and P. William Haake, MD '65
 Paul L. Kupferberg, MD '70
 Michael S. Levine, MD '66
 David T. Lyon, MD '71
 Cheryl Morrow Brunacci, MD '97
 Patricia J. Numann, MD '65
 Barton Pakull, MD '61
 Elmerina* and Paul D. Parkman, MD '57*
 Stanley M. Polansky, MD '74
 Donna and Gerald F. Schwartzberg, MD '63
 K. Bruce Simmons, MD '79
 Suzanne and Brian Sorrentino, MD '85*
 Betsy* and Christopher G. Ullrich, MD '76*

To view complete Legacy Society list, visit:
medalumni.upstate.edu/legacy

2024-2025 REPORT OF GIFTS

Alumni Giving

1949

\$100-\$499

Shirley M. Stone Cohan

1950

\$1-\$99

Fleurene P. Holt

1951

\$1,000-\$2,499

Hugh S. Fulmer

1952

\$50,000 and above

Norman R. Loomis*

1953

\$1-\$99

Daniel J. Mason

1954

\$50,000 and above
Anonymous

\$10,000-\$24,999

Albert F. Mangan*

\$100-\$499

Thomas A. Treanor

1955

\$1,000-\$2,499

Philip J. Speller

\$100-\$499

John E. Bloom

1956

\$500-\$999

Douglas S. Langdon

\$100-\$499

Willard Cohen
Milton Ingberman
Robert D. Lindeman
Robert Penner
Judah Roher

1957

\$5,000-\$9,999

Paul D. Parkman*

\$100-\$499

Frederick Dushay
Bert G. Katzung

\$1-\$99

Ronald A. Nackman
Murray V. Osofsky

1958

\$1,000-\$2,499

Newton B. Chin
Welton M. Gersony
George B. Jacobs

\$500-\$999

Howard L. Weinberger

\$100-\$499

George S. Goldstein
Richard Schoenfeld

\$1-\$99

Dennis R. Derby

1959

\$5,000-\$9,999

Rudolph J. Napodano
Stanley Zinberg

\$1,000-\$2,499

Frank T. Cicero

\$500-\$999

Carl E. Silver

\$100-\$499

Samuel J. Braun
Samuel Hellman
Richard J. Lubera
Myron Miller

\$1-\$99

Gerald E. Epstein

1960

\$500-\$999

Julian M. Aroesty
Samuel O. Thier

\$100-\$499

Robert E. Alessi
Leonard R. Friedman
Harvey R. Gold
Allen H. Unger
Lewis Wexler
Philip A. Wolf

\$1-\$99

Robert R. Siroty

1961

\$500-\$999

Carlo R. deRosa
Barton Pakull

\$100-\$499

Peter Greenwald
Howard R. Nankin
Robert I. Raichelson

1962

\$1,000-\$2,499

Steven A. Artz

\$500-\$999

Steven N. Berney
Burton A. Scherl

\$100-\$499

Richard H. Bennett
Kirtland E. Hobler
William J. Mesibov
Robert Poss
John Ritrosky, Jr.

\$1-\$99

Theodore K. Tobias

1963

\$10,000-\$24,999

Bruce Stewart

\$5,000-\$9,999

Philip M. Gaynes

\$1,000-\$2,499

Gustave L. Davis
Irwin P. Goldstein

\$500-\$999

David G. Storrs

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Bernard W. Asher
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Arnold R. Cohen
Arnold Derman
Stuart L. Kaplan
Regis C. Kohring
Malcolm E. Levine
David F. Pearce
David I. Rosen
Carl Salzman
Richard J. Wells

1964

\$2,500-\$4,999

Ralph D. Zehr

\$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous
Edward Burak

\$500-\$999

Jack C. Schoenholtz

\$100-\$499

Michael Andrisani
George Burak
Seymour Grufferman
Nathan M. Hameroff
Daniel L. Harris
Phineas J. Hyams
Lewis W. Johnson
Samuel J. Mazza
Gene R. Moss
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David W. Watson

\$1-\$99

Robert F. Agnew*



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A Lifetime of Caring

Norman R. Loomis, MD '52, endows scholarship to support family medicine students



Norman R. Loomis, MD '52, and his wife Jinny

When Norman R. Loomis, MD '52, began his medical education at what was then Syracuse University College of Medicine, paying for tuition, books, and food was a constant challenge. With help from the GI Bill and a supportive uncle who was also a family doctor, he made it through—and built a lifelong career defined by compassion, community, and service.

After completing his residency at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, Dr. Loomis settled in Ontario, New York, where he practiced family medicine for more than 50 years. His office on Walworth Road, an architectural curiosity designed by a friend and protégé of Louis Kahn, became a town landmark, and his home dining room doubled as an in-home clinic for neighbors in need of stitches or care. "Helping when people need it most isn't a 9-to-5 job," Loomis says. "It wasn't a burden.

It was part of the job that I loved."

Loomis was also part of the larger medical community, serving as town health officer, physician for the Wayne Central School District, as president of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians and also served on the board of American Academy of Family Physicians.

Nearing his 99th birthday and 29 years retired, Loomis says people still stop him and share stories of his impact as their doctor. That enduring gratitude inspired him to give back to the profession that shaped his life. In 2024, he endowed the Dr. Norman R. Loomis Family Practice Scholarship at the Norton College of Medicine, hoping to encourage medical students into the field of family medicine.

"It's not about my name on the scholarship," he says. "It's about supporting students who want to serve their communities through family practice. If I can help make that path a little easier, we all win."

For 2025 scholarship recipient John Babich '26, the impact is already profound. "This award strengthens my commitment to primary care," Babich wrote in a thank-you note to Loomis. "Your generosity encourages me to carry forward the values of service and compassion central to family medicine."

That's precisely what Loomis was hoping for. "I believe we are created to be involved and to help one another," he says. "My entire career was devoted to helping all people—across my town, county, state—and it was hugely satisfying to me. I hope others can enjoy similar rewards."

Dr. Loomis died November 8 as this magazine was preparing to go to print. Donations in his memory can be made to the Dr. Norman R. Loomis Family Practice Scholarship at <https://medalumni.upstate.edu/donate>

1965

\$25,000-\$49,999

Patricia J. Numann
Herbert M. Weinman

\$10,000-\$24,999

Thomas J. Stevens

\$5,000-\$9,999

Donald L. Jeck
Roy T. Young

\$2,500-\$4,999

Philip S. Schein

\$1,000-\$2,499

Peter J. Adasek
Herbert Fellerman
Gerald A. King
Lawrence F. Simon

\$500-\$999

Lucy P. Buckley
Paul J. Honig
Susan R. Young

\$100-\$499

Gary J. Havens
Dirk E. Huttenbach

Aaron Kassoff
George A. Knaysi
Robert A. Nover
Ronald A. Rohe
Richard N. Snyder
James R. Tobin
Daniel H. Whiteley

1966

\$50,000 and above
Anonymous

\$5,000-\$9,999

Jack J. Schneider

\$1,000-\$2,499

Norman L. Fienman
Michael S. Levine
Robert A. Levine
Adolph Morlang
Louis A. Rosati

\$500-\$999

Neal M. Friedberg
Bonnie M. Norton
Robert G. Spencer

\$100-\$499

Nathan Billig



Members of the Class of 1965 accept the award for the largest class gift at Reunion 2025.

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John W. Petrozzi
Alan F. Pritchard
Gerald Sufrin
Russell F. Warren
Frank G. Yanowitz

Mark A. Goodman
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Norman J. Marcus
Bruce L. McClennan
Robert M. Quencer
Charles T. Sitrin
Aaron N. Tessler
Jesse Williams
Elizabeth D. Woodard
Bertram Zarins

Gary P. Schwartz
Arthur J. Segal
Eleanor Williams

\$1-\$99
G. Richard Barr

1969

\$5,000-\$9,999
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\$1,000-\$2,499
Noah S. Finkel
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\$500-\$999
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Robert S. Davis
Ruth B. Deddish
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Joel Greenspan
Kenneth M. Grundfast
Robert I. Klein
Martin D. Mayer
John T. McCarthy
Edward M. Nathan
Robert H. Osofsky

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\$1,000-\$2,499
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Leslie M. Burger
Alfred P. Coccaro
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Martin R. Post
Hollis A. Thomas

\$500-\$999
Martin L. Cohen
Daniel G. McDonald

\$100-\$499
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Sheldon Cohen
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Cathey E. Falvo
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Karl G. Baer
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Judith S. Warren

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\$25,000-\$49,999

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Joel A. Strom
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Steven H. Lefkowitz

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Kenneth J. Adcook
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\$500-\$999

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\$2,500-\$4,999

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Eugene M. Kenigsberg
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\$25,000-\$49,999

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Beverly Khnie Philip
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Chaban

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2024-2025 REPORT OF GIFTS

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Irving Huber
Leonard H. Madoff
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\$500-\$999
Johana Kashiwa Brakeley
Drake M. Lamen
John M. Manring

\$100-\$499
Jeffrey Berman
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Charles B. Eaton
Robert H. Fabrey, II
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Philip D. Gottlieb
Patrick W. Knapp
Lester Kritzer
Debra Kuracina
William R. Latreille
Celeste M. Madden
Frank V. Messina
Anthony Scardella
Carolyn A. Smith
Jud A. Staller
Jack E. Zigler
Mark W. Zilkoski

\$1-\$99
Jody S. Bleier
James A. Schneid

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\$50,000 and above
Colleen E. O'Leary
Michael R. O'Leary

\$10,000-\$24,999
Bruce M. Leslie
Stephen E. Presser

\$2,500-\$4,999
Steven Strongwater

\$1,000-\$2,499
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\$500-\$999
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Marie A. Ganott

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\$1-\$99
A. James Ciacchio
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1979

\$10,000-\$24,999
Teresa R. Miller

\$5,000-\$9,999
Marc A. Subik

\$1,000-\$2,499
Joan S. Dengrove
Richard M. Goldberg
Ann Kasten Aker
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Nancy J. Tarbell

\$500-\$999
David B. Duggan*
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Henry M. Adam

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Alan David Drezner, MD '70
Ronald Dvorkin, MD '70
Peter A. Freedman, MD '70
William A. Henion, MD '70
Roy A. Kaplan, MD '70
Alan S. Kliger, MD '70
Alexander E. Kuehl, MD '70
Paul L. Kupferberg, MD '70
John P. Marangola, MD '70
Brian P. O'Neill, MD '70
Patrick J. Sheehan, MD '70
William D. Singer, MD '70
Joel A. Strom, MD '70
Alan L. Williams, MD '70
Mark L. Wolraich, MD '70
Howard D. Wulfson, MD '70



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2024-2025 REPORT OF GIFTS

Cynthia A. Battaglia-Fiddler
Robert M. Constantine
David H. Dube
Douglas K. Hyde
Barry F. Kanzer
Mark L. Moster
Marlene R. Moster
Elizabeth A. Rocco
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Gary D. Steward
James A. Trippi

1980

\$2,500-\$4,999
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\$1,000-\$2,499
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Mark D. Brownell
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David A. Goodkin
Edward C. Gross
Andrew W. Gurman
Makoto Iwahara
Marilyn Krch
Michael D. Privitera
Neal M. Shindel
John H. Soffietti
Jean M. Weigert
Bradley A. Woodruff

\$500-\$999
Madeline Barott
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Lowell L. Hart
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Ramachandran
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William L. Sternheim
Robert M. Vandemark

\$100-\$499
Gary C. Enders
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Robert T. Friedman
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Reginald Q. Knight
Nancy S. Knudsen
Paul Menge
Gerald B. Rakos
John E. Ritchie
Peter J. Stahl
Marshall Trabout
Alexander E. Weingarten
Nora W. Wu
Joanna Zolkowski-Wynne

1981

\$10,000-\$24,999
Ralph L. Stevens

\$1,000-\$2,499
Sharon A. Brangman
Carol A. Simmons

\$500-\$999
Anonymous
Steven M. Connolly
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David B. Grossberg
William P. Hannan
Martin P. Jacobs
Lori Jalens Sternheim
Stuart W. Zarich

\$100-\$499
Brian P. Anderson
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Richard M. Steinbruck
Kathleen Stoekel
Scott A. Syverud

\$1-\$99
Ellen M. Kaczmarek
Anthony J. Viglietta

1982

\$5,000-\$9,999
Anne H. Rowley
Stephen M. Rowley
Charles J. Ryan, III

\$2,500-\$4,999
James J. Cummings

\$1,000-\$2,499
Robert A. Dracker
Brett P. Godbout
Ann M. Lenane
Harold Richter
Sophia Socaris
William S. Varade
Theodore M. Vermont

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James F. Boehner
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Gary B. Kaplan
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Robert McCann
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David M. Novick
William S. Sykora

\$100-\$499
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Mark A. Rothschild
John S. Tsakonas
Nicholas G. Tullo
Pamela D. Unger
Amy J. Yale-Loehr

\$1-\$99
Dennis S. Poe
Steven A. Radi
Joseph A. Smith
Jeffrey D. Spiro

1983

\$2,500-\$4,999
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\$1,000-\$2,499
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Dennis D. Daly

\$500-\$999
George N. Coritsidis
Karen K. Heitzman
Joseph H. Keogh
Michael R. Robinson
Cynthia S. Wong

\$100-\$499
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Wanda P. Fremont
Michael P. Gabris
Seth S. Greenky
Jules Greif
Ellen B. Kaplan
Lya M. Karm
Terry H. Lapsker
Joseph P. Laukaitis
Robert Lowinger
Robert J. Ostrander
Paul P. Romanello
Scott A. Ross
Richard F. Russell
Susan E. Schraft
Charles A. Seager
Joan L. Thomas
Elizabeth A. Valentine
Charles I. Woods
Darryl A. Zuckerman

\$1-\$99
Marcy E. Mostel
Andrea R. Stewart

1984

\$25,000-\$49,999
Brian D. Woolford

\$5,000-\$9,999
Lori J. Mosca
Brian P. Wicks

\$1,000-\$2,499
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Frederick D. Grant
William M. Hartrich
Roberta M. Johnson
Amy L. Ladd
Angela Veloudios

\$500-\$999
John R. Ayres
Anthony W. Hartmann
Sandra M. Lombardo
John M. Marzo
Donald Patten
Michael D. Schwartz
Lynn M. Sutley-Hartmann
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Palis

\$100-\$499
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Anne Pearl
Joel Schwartz
Simon D. Spivack
Neal Zung

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Lewis Robinson, MD '73
K. Bruce Simmons, MD '79
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Elizabeth Rajamani
Edward J. Spangenthal
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Daphna Kilion

1988

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Anderson
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1998

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Providing Opportunity

Vijay Kotha, MD '99, Honors His Parents and His Upstate Roots

For Vijay Kotha, MD '99, establishing the Kotha Family Scholarship in honor of Aranjyothi Kotha, MD, HS '82, and Vijayasimha Kotha, MD, wasn't just about giving back—it was about honoring sacrifice, celebrating opportunity, and supporting students from economically challenged communities.

The scholarship, created in January 2025, celebrates the sacrifices his parents made and aims to open doors for future students from the region where he grew up. "My parents gave everything for our family and our education," Kotha says. "This is a way to honor them and help others from our area have the same chance I did."

His father, Dr. Vijayasimha Kotha, is a urologist who built a busy practice in Ogdensburg, in northern New York. His mother, Dr. Aranjyothi Kotha, attended medical school in India before immigrating to the United States to marry her husband and deferred her career for over a decade while raising three children.

When Dr. Kotha was in the fourth grade, his mother began a residency in psychiatry at Upstate, located two hours south in Syracuse. Every week, she would drive to Syracuse for her residency—returning home only on weekends, which she spent cooking meals to last her family for the next week. "Having gone through residency myself, I don't know how she did it," Kotha says. "She worked incredibly hard, not because we needed the money—my father had a successful practice—but because she wanted her own meaningful career."

After completing her residency in 1982, she spent more than two decades serving patients at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center. She died in 2015. His father practiced urology in Ogdensburg for more than 40 years. Their dedication inspired their son's own path in medicine.

After earning his undergraduate degree from Cornell and a master's from Boston University, Kotha came to Upstate for medical school. Visiting friends who lived in Madison Towers, he realized he'd been there as a child. "It was where my mother lived during her residency," he says.

Following graduation, where his parents were able to hood him to welcome him into the medical profession, Kotha completed his urology residency at SUNY Buffalo and now practices with Comprehensive Urology in Canton, Michigan.

Despite having two daughters in college (including one at Syracuse University) and a third in high school, Kotha says his own successful practice affords him the ability to give back to the institution that provided the foundation for that career. "I feel like I've come full circle," he says. "I wanted to give back to the place that put me on the road to doing well."

The Kotha Family Scholarship will support Norton College of Medicine students with financial need who come from northern New York counties such as St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, and Franklin. "It's an economically challenged area," Kotha explains. "If someone from there gets into medical school, I want to help them succeed."



Vijay Kotha, MD '99, with his parents, Aranjyothi Kotha, MD, HS '82, and Vijayasimha Kotha, MD

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2002

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Jason P. Scimeme

2005

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Joby George

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Daniel R. Lefebvre
Samantha Ng
Isabelle Zamfirescu

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Yauvana V. Gold
Kelly M. Willman



2004

\$2,500-\$4,999

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Larisa Vorobyeva

2007

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Lisa K. Law
Jing Liang
Jeremy M. Liff

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Anonymous
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Adams
Avreliya Shapiro

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2008

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Yening Xia

2012

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Ai Lin Huang

2013

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2016

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In Memory of Richard H. Aubry, MD, MPH, Prof Emeritus

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In Memory of Ethel Black

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Patricia Blau

In Memory of Ellen Cades

Claudia Leslie and Louis Lipschutz

In Memory of Herbert E. Cohn, MD

Claudia Leslie and Louis Lipschutz

In Memory of Patrick Cole

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In Memory of John R. DePalma, MD '59

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In Memory of Arleen DiCaprio

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Giana Gleeson

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Shannon R. Iles

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Anonymous

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Sachin Shah, MD '09

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Alden Paul Endres

Ingrid Alice Endres

Richard F. Endres, MD

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Ralph S. Mosca, MD '85

In Memory of Rita Leighton, MD '91

Cynthia A. Gingalewski, MD '90

In Memory of Stanley D. Leslie, MD '51

The Isaacs Family

Bruce M. Leslie, MD '78

Avery Leslie O'Neill and Hank O'Neill

Claudia Leslie and Louis Lipschutz

In Memory of Thomas J. Maher, MD '83

Kevin M. Coughlin, MD '83

In Memory of Michael Maiale

Claudia Leslie and Louis Lipschutz

In Memory of George F. McVay, MD

David J. Novelli, MD '75

In Memory of Marty Michaels, MD '81

William P. Hannan, MD '81

In Memory of Brad Middleton, MD '20

Mr. and Mrs. David Middleton

In Memory of David G. Murray, MD

Noah S. Finkel, MD '69

In Memory of Frank and Flo Presser

Stephen E. Presser, MD '78

In Memory of Robert F. Rohner, MD '52

Robert J. Rankel, MD '72

In Memory of Adam Rosen

Claudia Leslie and Louis Lipschutz

In Memory of Joanne Sackman

Dennis L. Feinberg, MD '76

In Memory of Julius Schwartz, MD '33

Susan Schwartz McDonald, PhD

In Memory of Brian Sorrentino, MD '85

Mark A. Fogel, MD '85

Suzanne B. Sorrentino

In Memory of Ronald H. Spiro, MD '55

Bennett Leifer, MD '86

In Memory of Judy Stahl

Claudia Leslie and Louis Lipschutz

In Memory of Andrew J. Swinburne, MD '69

Sandra Swinburne

In Memory of Clifford H. Turen, MD '83

Kevin M. Coughlin, MD '83

In Memory of Darvin J. Varon, MD '93

Patricia Randall, MD

In Memory of Andrew D. Weinberg, MD '78

Anonymous

In Memory of Ellen W. Liang, MD

Alan C. Yao, MD '95

In Memory of David Yarkony

Kathryn Yarkony

HONORARY GIFTS

In Honor of John J. Alfarone, Jr., '26

Michael K. Ditkoff, MD '94

In Honor of Ann Barker-Griffith, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology

Michael R. Robinson, MD '83

In Honor of N. Barry Berg, PhD

Michael G. Fitzgerald, MD '10

Jing Liang, MD '07

Richard F. Russell, MD '83

In Honor of John D. Bisognano, MD '90

Malcolm D. Brand, MD '94

In Honor of Sharon A. Brangman, MD '81

Ellen M. Kaczmarek, MD '81

John Shavers, MD '80

In Honor of the Class of 1965

Philip S. Schein, MD '65

In Honor of the Class of 1976

Richard M. Alexander, MD '76

In Honor of the Upstate Faculty Supporting Non-Traditional Students

Jin Qian, MD '10

In Honor of Alden P. Endres

Richard F. Endres, MD

In Honor of Ingrid A. Endres

Richard F. Endres, MD

In Honor of Ernie Found, MD '80

Madeline Barott, MD '80

In Honor of My Dad, Hugh Fulmer, MD '51's, 97th Birthday

Kim Humphrey

In Honor of Carole Ginsburg and Richard Cutler

Claudia Leslie and Louis Lipschutz

In Honor of Paul M. Grossberg, MD '75

David B. Grossberg, MD '81

In Honor of Herb Isaacs

The Isaacs Family

In Honor of Saul J. Klein, MD '59

Miles Bottrill

In Honor of Patricia J. Numann, MD '65

Anonymous

Coleen K. Cunningham, MD '85

Dennis L. Feinberg, MD '76

Mark H. Katz, MD '75

In Honor of Joel Potash, MD

Joseph Hinterberger, MD '91

In Honor of the R-Med Fund for Northern NY

Hugh S. Fulmer, MD '51

In Honor of Rissa & Michael Ratner, MD'68, on their 60th Anniversary

Harvey K. Bucholtz, MD '68

In Honor of My Children, Lindsay, Carli and Jeremy

Bruce A. Salzberg, MD '79

In Honor of Susan Stearns, PhD

Sarah C. Burns

Ronald J. Costanzo, MD '90

Paul A. Zimmerman, MD '88

In Honor of Janet S. Stram, RN

Michelle N. Stram, MD '14

Dr. Richard Stram

In Honor of Paula Trief, PhD

Daniel Himmelsbach

In Honor of Howard Weinberger, MD '58

Mark H. Katz, MD '75

In Honor of Arthur Zak, MD '16

Timothy M. Smilnak, MD '17

2025 Scholarship Recipients

Thanks to the generosity of alumni support, the Medical Alumni Foundation awarded more than \$1.9 million in student scholarships this year.

The Dennis L. Allen, MD '72 and Linda Riffe Allen Endowed Scholarship in Memory of John B. Henry, MD
Harrison Smith

The A. Geno Andreatta Scholarship
Maggie Markgraf

The Benjamin N., Mollie P., Gerson H. '57 and Martin W. Aronovitz, MD '65 Memorial Scholarship
Dillon Prus

The Nathan and Ada August Memorial Scholarship
Eunice P. Yoon

The Stanley A. August, MD Memorial Scholarship
Jacob Fagnani

The Zaven S. Ayanian, MD '59 Family Scholarship
Kirsten Krick and Sophia Xian

The John R., MD '84 and Deborah L. Ayres Endowed Scholarship
Avree S. Kestay

The Theresa Baltera Memorial Scholarship
Jian Li

The N. Barry Berg, PhD Scholarship for Musculoskeletal Medicine
Isaiah Pompo

The Martin Black Family Scholarship
Brady Iles

The Stephen Blau, MD '68 Memorial Scholarship
Eunice Baik, Jackson C. Bright II, Gianna A. DeRoberts, Stephanie Ezeoke, Mack Ogden, Christian Poblano, Brianna Rheume, Jonathan Rismany, Michelle Robbins, Khristy Tapiero and Kelly Zhou

The Elliot Brandwein, MD '67 and Arlene Eckstein Brandwein, MD '68 Scholarship
Filip Morawski, Kathleen Renna and Zachary M. Williams

The Sharon A. Brangman, MD '81 Scholarship in Geriatrics
Sidney Davis

The Bernard J. Burke, MD 12/'43 Scholarship
Michelle Montero

The Cady Family Scholarship
Emily Norris

The Leonard D. Carpenter, MD '33 and Ruth E. Carpenter Memorial Scholarship
Cara Smith

The David L. Charney, MD '68 Endowed Scholarship
Joe Karboski

The Douglas (Ed Ben-Edison) Cox, MD '63 Scholarship
Angelique A. Dabel

The Edwin T. Dailey, MD '68 Memorial Scholarship in Radiology
Ahmad Wady

The Andre de Corla-Souza, MD '00 Memorial Scholarship
Prithi Chakrapani and Brody Hooper

The Dewan Family Endowed Scholarship
Arwaa Mehran, Nawab Rustum Qaderi, Barbara Santos, Jeanpierre Tenesaca and Daniel Toscano

The Alfred W. Doust, MD Endowed Scholarship in Otolaryngology
Febronía Mansour

The Dracker Family Scholarship
Mary Locastro and Annika A. Mounts

The Robert Eitches, MD '78 Scholarship in Honor of Shirley and Irving Eitches
Samantha Ballas

The Alfred F. and Shirley D. Enwright Endowed Scholarship (endowed by Michael O'Leary, MD '78 and Colleen Enwright O'Leary, MD '78)
Afeesat Durosini

The Joseph C. Fischer, MD '79 Memorial Scholarship
Mark Lutz

The Medical Alumni Foundation Founders Scholarship
Mary Locastro

The Sarah Loguen Fraser, MD Alumni Scholarship
Schylar M. Turner

The Friendship Scholarship in Honor of Ernest Found, MD '80, in memory of his wife, Ellyn Slocum Found, and his daughter, Caroline Slocum Found
Avree S. Kestay

The Joseph J. Gadbaw, MD 12/'43 and Ann Gadbaw Scholarship
Gracy Lin

The Max Gara and Robert H. Gara, MD '56 Scholarship
Demi Ajao

The Suzan and Philip M. Gaynes, MD '63 Scholarship
Khadean Moncrieffe

The Susan E. and Welton M. Gersony, MD '58 Endowed Scholarship
Kathleen Renna

The Samuel Gersten, MD '39 and Martha Gersten Endowed Scholarships
Noelle C. Ortiz, Sunny U. Patel, Eleanor J. Sommers and Christopher Stanton

The Jerome C. Goldstein, MD '63 and Rochelle Goldstein Scholarship
John Alfarone

The I. Bruce Gordon, MD '63 Scholarship in Honor of Professor William H. Bergstrom
Mary Locastro

The Diane Green-El, MD '78 Memorial Scholarship
Mus'ab Azam

The Sahib Saran Gupta Memorial Scholarship
Febronía Mansour

The Douglas W. Halliday, MD '79 Scholarship
Mark D. Verenich

The Frances A. Harmatuk, MD '41 Geriatrics Scholarship
Kenneth Ortega

The Edward F. Higgins, MD '78 Scholarship
Grace E. Gugerty

The Geraldyn and Grant Hobika, MD '52 Creative Arts and Medicine Scholarship
Brian C. Ganeles

The Robert V.P. Hutter, MD '54 and Ruth L. Hutter Scholarship
Adam Novak

The Kasten Aker Family Scholarship
Febronía Mansour

The E. Gregory Keating, PhD Memorial Scholarship
Sophia Xian

The Martha S. Kincaid, MD '73 Scholarship
Kristin M. Schermerhorn

The Sonya A. LaBella Memorial Scholarship
Estee Wu

The Stanley D. Leslie, MD '51 Memorial Scholarship
Amelia Gabor

The Dr. Norman R. Loomis Family Practice Scholarship
John Babich

The Margaret and Jonathan Lowell, MD '75 Endowed Scholarship
Emily Cranmer and Amy Huang

The Lynch Family Scholarship
Hannah Brown

The Alphonse A. Maffeo, MD '72 Scholarship
Nicholas Federico

The B. Dale Magee, MD '75 Scholarship
Juan Diego Betancur, Adedoyin Julius, Arwaa Mehran and Dante Whitmire

The Edward A. Major, MD '64 and Stephen Major, MD Psychiatry Award
Elliot Levi

The Angeline R. Mastri, MD '59 Scholarship
Jeisson Ramos Miranda

The Patrick T. Mathews, MD '03 Memorial Scholarship
Katie Farkouh

The McAnarney Family Endowed Scholarship in Pediatrics
Alondra Y. Holland

The James L. McGraw, MD '41 Scholarship
Mark D. Verenich

The Gustave P. Milkey, MD '43 and Janet B. Milkey Merit Scholarship
Estelle G. Khairallah

The James and Dolores Moffett Memorial Scholarship
Demi Ajao

The Peggy and Adolph Morlang, MD '66 Scholarship
Nia Brown and Schylar M. Turner

The Joseph A. Morra, MD "Renaissance Man" Memorial Scholarship
Allison Carroll

Rudolph J. Napodano, MD '59 Scholarship
Timothy Chan

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The Nelson/Freedman Scholarship

Robert Martino

The Patricia J. Numann, MD '65 Endowed Scholarship

Demi Ajao

The Onondaga County Medical Society (OCMS) Medical Student Scholarship

Yousef Kamel Elsayed and
Jack H. Michaels

The Allan J. Press, MD '67 Endowed Scholarship

Hannah H. Kim

The Stephen Presser, MD '78 Scholarship in Memory of Frank and Flo Presser

Morgan Pierce

The Michael H. Ratner, MD '68 Endowed Scholarship

Morgan Pierce

The Betty Reiss, MD '68 and Jacob Reiss, MD '68 Family Endowed Scholarship

Mary Locastro

The Monroe Richman, MD '55 and Esther Richman Scholarship

Emily Cranmer

The Samuel Rosenthal, MD '64 Scholarship

Timothy Chan

The Rural Medicine Alumni Endowed Scholarship

Jacob Fagnani

The Sanders/Kilkelly Scholarship

Annika A. Mounts

The Schein Family Scholarship

Kristin M. Schermerhorn

The Jack J. Schneider, MD '66 Scholarship

Mus'ab Azam

The Julius Schwartz, MD '33 Scholarship

Jonathan Mohnkern

The Setnor Family Endowed Scholarship (endowed by Rose and Jules R. Setnor, MD '35 and Stanford S. Setnor, MD '42)

Olivia C. Buyea

The Ara A. Sheperdigian, MD '60 Memorial Scholarship

Coralee A. Everett

The John B. and Henrietta E. Simeone Scholarship in Memory of Fiorindo A. Simeone, MD

Prithi Chakrapani

The Frederick W. Sloan, MD '74 Scholarship

Brian C. Ganeles

The Brian P. Sorrentino, MD '85 Memorial Scholarship

Sara Solasz

The Susan B. Stearns, PhD Scholarship for Community Engagement

Rachel Ziemba

The Mallory Stephens, MD '54 Endowed Scholarship

Chris Cizmeciyan

The Ellen Lawson Stevens, MD Endowed Scholarship

Elliot Levi, Nicola Manfredi,
Sunny U. Patel, and Alena Thotam

The Ralph Stevens, MD '81 Madison-Oneida County Scholarship

Aaron Samuel Alejo, Coralee A. Everett,
Amelia Gabor, Matthew Infarinato,
Elizabeth Kaido, Estelle G. Khairallah,
Sophia Silas, Mark D. Verenich,
Zachary M. Williams, and Rachel
Ziemba

The Rosemary Stevens, MD Annual Scholarship

Petrack Amankwah, Allysa Kemraj,
Asharee Mahmood, Deborah
Ogunribido, Eunice Park and Barbara
Santos

The Keith Stube, MD '88 Endowed Scholarship

Anjali Malhotra

The Marc A. Subik, MD '79 Family Scholarship

Estelle G. Khairallah

The Swift Family Legacy Grants

Yannis Dimitroff, Brody Hooper, Elliot
Levi, Cara Smith and Omar Yaipen

The Andrew J. Swinburne, MD '69 Memorial Scholarship

Emily Cranmer

The Dr. Oscar and Mrs. Luba Trief Memorial Scholarship

Amelia Gabor

The Barbara and Harold H. Wanamaker, MD '56 Scholarship

Estelle G. Khairallah

The Andrew D. Weinberg, MD '78 Memorial Geriatric Scholarship

Ava Conklin

The Herbert M. Weinman, MD '65 and Suzy Weinman Scholarship Award

Sunny U. Patel

The Alan L. Williams, MD '70 and Luanne G. Williams Scholarship

Zachary M. Williams

The Susan and Jack Yoffa, MD '69 Scholarship in Memory of Elaine Yoffa Hornung

Ciara Murphy

The Frank E. Young, MD '56 and Leanne Young Endowed Scholarship

John Babich

CLASS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Class of 1966 Scholarship

Oyeolamide O. Oyediran

The Class of 1971 Scholarship

Grace E. Gugerty

The Carol Kavanagh and Class of 1973 Scholarship

Jessica Chavez Gutierrez

The Class of 1977 Scholarship

Theresa Chung

The Class of 1979 Scholarship

Usiwat Abdul

The Rick Zogby, MD, Class of 1984 Memorial Scholarship

Anas Abbas

STUDENT CITIZEN AWARDS

These awards recognize those students who have distinguished themselves as leaders and volunteers in the life of our campus and greater Syracuse community.

Class of 2026: Elizabeth Lee

Class of 2027: Kira Whisenhunt

Class of 2028: Stevie Tchako-Tchokouassi

PENDING SCHOLARSHIPS

Peter J. Adasek, MD '65 Scholarship

John D. Bisognano, MD '90 Endowed Scholarship

Colonel Bruce and Mrs. Marie Campbell Scholarship

Class of 1955 Scholarship

Class of 1965 Memorial Scholarship

Class of 1970 Scholarship

Class of 1980 Scholarship

Eleni Doufekias, MD '03 Memorial Scholarship

Garakani Family Scholarship

Kathleen A. Iles, MD '18 Memorial Scholarship

The Kotha Family Scholarship in honor of Aranjyothi Kotha, MD and Vijayasimha Kotha, MD

Sam and Carol Nappi Endowed Scholarship

Adam Oberlander, MD Class of 2005 Memorial Scholarship

Robert J. and Mary C. O'Leary Endowed Scholarship

David N. Osser Scholarship

Reiss Family Kenyan Student Scholarship

Bruce Stewart, MD '63 Scholarship

Patsy and Wayne Welsher, MD '75 Scholarship

Brian D. Woolford, MD '84 Scholarship

Ann and Stanley Yarkony Memorial Scholarship

OTHER AWARDS/GRANTS

Class of 1968 Primary Care Endowment

Jerry Hoffman Advocacy Award

Brad Middleton, MD '20 Memorial Fund

Teresa R. Miller, MD '79 Wellness Initiative for Psychiatry Residents

Pediatric Residents Endowment for International Travel

Dr. Tarakad Ramachandran Neurology Award

FELLOWSHIPS

Susan and Gustave L. Davis, MD '63 Summer Fellowship for Pathology

Ellen Cook Jacobsen, MD '50 Fellowship in Psychiatry

LECTURESHIPS

The Welton M. Gersony Pediatric Lectureship

Robert V.P. Hutter, MD '54 and Ruth L. Hutter Endowed Lectureship

The Donald and Mary Elizabeth King Endowed Lectureship

The Lawrence Pickett, MD Endowed Lectureship in Pediatric Surgery

Reiss Family Visiting Lectureship in Ethics and Equity

PROFESSORSHIPS/CHAIRS

Stanley A. August, MD '69 Endowed Professorship in Pediatrics

Medical Alumni Endowed Professorship in Bioethics

Alan and Marlene Norton Presidential Chair at Upstate Medical University

The Patricia J. Numann, MD '65, Chair of Surgery

Lloyd S. Rogers Endowed Professorship in Surgery

Leanne and Frank E. Young, MD '56, PhD, Endowed Chair in Biomedical Science

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CHANGE SCHOLARS

The *CHANGE* Scholarship is a collaboration between Drs. Betty and Jacob Reiss '68 and the Center for Bioethics and Humanities. It is awarded to third-year medical students who have successfully completed the *Physicians and Social Responsibility* course and are committed to advocating for social responsibility and change in their professional lives.

Saad Ahmad, Ejun Dean, Swathi E. Jacob, Verónica Rivé and Estee Wu

RMED EXPERIENCE SCHOLARS

These Scholarships support students participating in the Rural Medical Education elective experience, which allows third-year medical students the opportunity to live and train in small-town communities.

Olivia Brand, Benjamin Carguello, Richard Colby, Michael Connolly, Ryan Crouse, Hunter Dean, Caitlin Grace, Austen Kalivas, Rachel Milone, Emily Norris, Emily Seale, Griffin Sigal, Jackie Whitehead and Kyle Wollner

ALUMNI SCHOLARS

The George J. Buchholtz, MD '52 Scholarships and the Medical Alumni Foundation Scholarships support full or partial tuition payments for outstanding medical students identified by the Admissions Committee.

Elyas Ayad
Anas Badri
Eunice Baik
Marcea Bond
Mary Brewer
Angela Chen

Dante Hovancik
Avree S. Kestay
Blessing Chidiuto Lawrence
Miryam Matute Roca
Jack H. Michaels
David Morrison

Katherine D. Narvaez Mena
Janet Nguyen
Deborah Ogunribido
Dania Salah
Kate Trujillo
Wai Cheung Tung

DEAN'S DISTINCTION AWARDS

The President's Office supports full tuition, housing and a stipend for outstanding medical students identified by the Admissions Committee.

John F. Burns, Hannah L. Cousins, Auriole C.R. Fassinou and Emerald Hall

HELEN AND ALBERT F. MANGAN, MD '54 AND UPSTATE SAY YES SCHOLARSHIP

This Scholarship provides full tuition, housing and a stipend for a student who has graduated from a Syracuse City School District high school or Syracuse Academy of Science charter school and attended college as a Say Yes Scholarship recipient.

Jennifer Nguyen

UPSTATE SAY YES SCHOLARSHIP

This Scholarship provides full tuition, housing and a stipend for a student who has graduated from a Syracuse City School District high school or Syracuse Academy of Science charter school and attended college as a Say Yes Scholarship recipient.

Alexander Guerrero, Molly Scott



STUDENT ROUNDS

From Exam Room to Newsroom

MEDICAL STUDENTS LEARN TO COMMUNICATE LIKE JOURNALISTS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH LITERACY

When Matthew Infarinato '26 opened the *Rome Daily Sentinel* one morning, his name was printed in bold just beneath the headline: “My Blood Pressure Is High, But I Feel Fine! Should I Go to the Emergency Department?”

It was surreal. Infarinato, a fourth-year medical student at the Norton College of Medicine, had written the piece not as a scientific report or case study, but as an editorial for his hometown community newspaper. The article drew directly from his experiences working in the emergency department at Oneida Health, where he had seen patients rush in with mild,

symptom-free hypertension—often frightened, but rarely in medical danger.

“I wanted to help people understand what’s urgent and what’s not and to help improve my community’s health literacy on a topic that was highlighted both in my clinical experiences and in the local data,” he says.

Infarinato’s article, later shared by proud relatives and neighbors across Madison and Oneida counties, was part of a new course in the Upstate Norton College of Medicine’s Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) called Targeted Rural Health Education, or TRHE.

The elective, launched in spring 2025, teaches medical students to write like journalists—translating complex medical knowledge into clear, accessible language for rural readers.

Traditionally, medical students write for peers and professors. Their assignments are steeped in research citations, formal tone, and clinical precision. TRHE flips that model on its head.

“Instead of writing for other doctors, our students are writing for farmers, teachers, and retirees—the people they see in their communities,” said Lauren Meyer, PhD, program director for Upstate’s Rural Medical Scholars Program. “Part of being a successful rural physician is community involvement. In small towns, everybody’s going to know you and look to you for guidance.”

Meyer modeled the course after a similar program at the University of North Dakota, where medical students had

been writing public health articles for local papers for nearly a decade. After hearing about it at a conference, she partnered with Lauren Bavis, a Faculty Fellow at Syracuse University’s Newhouse School of Public Communications, to bring the experience to Upstate.

Bavis taught students how to “think like journalists,” pitching story ideas, interviewing local experts, and crafting concise, readable pieces. Through workshops and one-on-one feedback sessions, she helped the students strip away jargon and humanize their message.

Each student in the pilot class chose a topic rooted in their clinical experiences. Infarinato focused on asymptomatic hypertension, inspired by his time at Oneida Health. Samantha Ballas '26, who spent a rotation at Delaware Valley Hospital in Walton, New York, wrote “Time Is Brain: Recognize the Subtle Symptoms of a Stroke,” which was published on *Syracuse.com*. Another classmate, Nathan Barott '26, wrote “Avoid the Emergency Department: Essential Chainsaw Safety Tips for Warren County Residents” for the *Glens Falls Post Star*.

All of the articles are now archived on the New York State Association for Rural Health website, giving them a lasting home beyond the newspapers where they first appeared.

For Ballas, who grew up in Connecticut and applied to Upstate’s Rural Medicine Education (RMED) track seeking a broader perspective on healthcare, the course rekindled an old passion. “I’ve always loved writing and missed it in medical school,” she says. “This class was a way to refuel that passion while contributing something tangible to the communities we serve.”

Her article aimed to teach readers how to recognize the early signs of a stroke—a condition where minutes can mean the



Samantha Ballas '26



Matthew Infarinato '26

difference between recovery and permanent disability.

"It was a great exercise in communicating with the general public," Ballas says. "We spend so much of our careers talking to patients, not other doctors. Being able to clearly explain disease and care in plain language is a critical skill."

The biggest revelation for students was how closely good medicine mirrors good journalism. Both require curiosity, empathy, and the ability to listen.

Students learned to identify the health issues most relevant to their regions by studying local community health assessments, the same data used by county health departments to prioritize resources. Then, with guidance from Bavis and Meyer, they turned those findings into stories that could change behavior.

After submitting drafts, students revised through rounds of professional-style editing. They learned how to pitch their work to editors at local newspapers, respond to feedback, and refine their message for a general audience.

"I had never written something meant for publication before," says Infarinato. "However, Lauren was an incredible resource and really helped foster my passion for writing. Working together, I gained confidence weaving my personal experiences from the ER with compelling data into a narrative that felt grounded and relatable."

"We have to reach out in approachable ways that makes medicine less intimidating and meet people where they are—even if that means starting with a newspaper column."

MATTHEW INFARINATO '26

When he started getting messages from family friends and patients who had clipped the article from the paper, the impact hit home. "If even one person reads my article and gains more medical knowledge as a result, I feel I've made a meaningful impact," he says.

Though the course ends with a byline, Meyer says the real goal is cultivating lifelong communication skills.

"The students tell me it's helping them become better clinicians. When they sit with a patient and have to explain what's happening in clear, compassionate language, that's where you see the connection between writing and practice," she says.

Ballas agrees. "Given all the misinformation out there, it's more important than ever for doctors to communicate effectively with the public," she says. "Patients

often come in talking about something they read online or saw on social media. If we can contribute accurate, understandable information to that conversation, we're doing real public service."

For many rural communities—where physician shortages and limited access to care remain persistent challenges—these articles may be the only form of preventive health education people encounter.

That's one reason Meyer hopes to expand TRHE to include more students and a wider range of topics in coming years. "We're training future doctors to be health advocates," she said. "They're learning not only how to treat illness but also how to engage and educate."

After completing his series of articles, Infarinato decided to make plain-language health writing the focus of his RMSP capstone project. He's already published a second editorial in the *Rome Sentinel* titled, "Your Heart Attack Didn't Start Today: How Drinking Less Soda Can Keep You Out of the ER," and is currently working on his next piece, "Alcohol: The Socially Acceptable Killer."

Meanwhile, Ballas is applying to neurology residency programs, still inspired by the idea that medical writing can change lives. "I hope to continue publishing," she said. "Maybe even write a book someday."

For both students, and for the communities they serve, TRHE has become more than a course—it's a conversation.

"It's about breaking down barriers," Infarinato says. "Especially in rural areas, physicians have to find ways to bridge the gaps in distance, trust, and medical knowledge. We have to reach out in approachable ways that makes medicine less intimidating and meet people where they are—even if that means starting with a newspaper column."

CLASS NOTES

1957

David B. Levine, of New York, NY, writes, "I am alive and well! *The Dartmouth Alumni Magazine* reported that I was deceased, and our class president alerted me of the error."

1958

George B. Jacobs, of Cape Coral, FL, writes, "I am sorry to inform my classmates that my beloved wife, Dr. Rosanne Wille, passed away on October 2, 2024, after a life full of accomplishment. During her career, she was the chair of Acute Medical and Surgical Nursing at Rutgers University, the founding dean of the Lehman College of Nursing and Health Professions of City University of New York, and for more than 10 years served as university provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. While at Rutgers, she was a founder of both the American and International Societies of Neurosurgical Nurses. After retiring, she worked in community affairs at the Cape Coral Police Department and chaired the Architectural Review Board of our community. She managed to be the mother of four sons, a breeder and trainer of champion German Shepherd dogs, and a commercial pilot with more than 5,000 pilot in command hours. She was active in community affairs and was awarded, among many tributes, the American Point of Light Award by President George Bush for a drug prevention program she developed with the

district attorney's office in the New York City public schools. She was nominated for this award by Nancy Reagan. Rosanne's Resurrection Mass was celebrated at the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Catholic Church in Bokeelia, FL, a parish in which she served as a eucharistic minister and lector as well as a member of the finance council."

1961 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

1962

Steven A. Artz, of Charleston, WV, is professor of medicine at West Virginia University School of Medicine. "Dr. Lyons would have been proud," he writes. "My three sons are academic doctors in California, Nevada, and New Jersey. I spend my time doing endocrine telemedicine for the rural hospitals in West Virginia. I would love to hear from classmates or residency mates (1963-1965). I am still in contact with **Kenneth Kushner**; we share a birthday."

1963

Michael A. Kirsch, of Encino, CA, is in his ninth year of retirement. "Unfortunately, my wife Barbara passed away two years ago and is sorely missed. Fortunately, my three kids, seven grandkids, and two great grandkids are around so I look at

this time as a bonus round. If anybody wants to reminisce, I'm available."

Bruce Stewart, of Frostproof, FL, writes, "Life is good at 92 and would be much better if the current dictator and his minister of health were not in the picture. My wife Judy and I are healthy but learning to live with macular degeneration. We are addicted to cruising and have gone many places and have more planned. If you're in Florida give a holler!"

1964

Edward Burak, of Englewood Cliffs, NJ, writes "I work remotely from my house, reading radiology images for Radnet. After spending 50 years as chief of radiology at Irvington General Hospital and running an imaging center in Milburn, NJ, we sold our imaging center in 2020. I am keeping active and still play tennis. My twin brother **George '64**, and my son **Jarett '02**, are both graduates. Jarett is a musculoskeletal radiologist with Northfield Imaging and lives in Roslyn, NJ. He has two children, a son, Sammy, and a daughter, Lola. My daughter Sabrina is a schoolteacher and lives in Paramont, NJ, and has two children, Tommy and Hannah. My brother George is a retired orthopedic surgeon and lives in Edgemont, NJ. He has a daughter and a son, **Corey '99**, who is an orthopedic surgeon practicing at White Plains Hospital."

1965

Robert A. Nover, of Bethesda, MD, retired from teaching and practice in child and adult psychiatry and psychoanalysis in 2024. "My wife Aimee, also a psychoanalyst, is retired," he writes. "We recently celebrated our 62nd wedding anniversary. Our middle grandson will be attending Brown University Medical School this fall."

Lawrence F. Simon, of Pomona, NY, recently retired and is sorry he was unable to make the Reunion.

1966 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

Frank G. Yanowitz, of Salt Lake City, UT, finally decided to fully retire at 86, although he continues to teach and work on his website (ecg.utah.edu). "Life is Good!" he writes.



Frank G. Yanowitz '66



Rosanne Wille, PhD, the late wife of George B. Jacobs '58



Rissa and Michael Ratner '68 and Joan and Harvey Bucholtz '68

1968

Harvey K. Bucholtz, of South Orange, NJ, and Joan celebrated Rissa and **Michael Ratner's** 60th wedding anniversary in June. "A friendship that has lasted many wonderful years," he writes.

J. Patrick Lavery, of Kalamazoo, MI, retired from a long career in maternal fetal medicine.

1969

Jane L. Falkenstein and **John T. McCarthy**, of Rensselaer, NY, share that their class note should be entitled Oh No!!! "During summer 2025, we got very excited about going on a cruise to Alaska from Seattle the last week of August but at T-minus two days before we expected to ship ahoy, Jane tripped and fell in her office and broke her right hip. Instead, Jane underwent major surgery. She sailed thru her operation and made a full recovery and is getting great care

at home from her family, PT and OT," they share.

Kenneth Grundfast, of Boston, MA, writes, "We are all old now and most of us have retired. We got our medical education before there were computers, CT or MRI scans and before DNA mutations that cause various medical disorders were identified. For the most part, we are a very fortunate group. We got a superb medical education for minimal cost. Our faculty members earnestly

wanted to fill our brains with knowledge and teach us technical skills. We were treated with utmost respect and supported in every imaginable way. I am one of the few class members who is not fully retired. As I continue my part-time work as a Professor Emeritus at the Chobanian and Avedesian Boston University School of Medicine, I can see clearly how rapidly biomedical science is advancing and how astounding the advances in biotechnology are. What all of us received from SUNY Upstate is intangible but extraordinarily valuable. Essentially, we were educated through the largesse of New York state, enabling us to have successful, professionally rewarding careers and loads of personal satisfaction. It's good to get old. As the years continue to pass, many parts of life are seen in perspective and I am even more grateful now than before for what I received at SUNY Upstate."



John T. McCarthy '69 and Jane L. Falkenstein '69

1970

Alexander (Sandy) E. Kuehl, of Amelia Island, FL, writes, "Our reunion dinner celebrating our 55th was well attended with 23 classmates and guests at the Century Club; Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD, and Dean Lawrence Chin, MD, spoke with us.

Alan Williams, our dinner chair, spoke and memorialized our 23 classmates that have passed away. We announced that the Class of 1970 Scholarship has been officially endowed with \$100,000 in gifts and pledges. **Paul Kupferberg**, a major sponsor of the scholarship, was unable to join us, and **Barry Greenberg** was unable to attend due to an international cardiology conference in Korea, but asked to be remembered to all."

William D. Singer, of Newton, MA, and Sarah are celebrating their 60th anniversary in December. "Our grandson Sam has been recruited to play baseball at New York University."

Alan L. Williams, of Blaine, WA, shares, "Our 55th reunion weekend of September 19-20 went very well. The Medical Alumni Foundation office team led by Paul Norcross did a wonderful job of planning and executing an interesting and educational program. Eighty-five of our 104 classmates are still living. Attendees at the Saturday evening Century Club dinner included **Jay Adcock**, **Mel Adler**, **Bert Crain**, **Stuart**

Danker, **Ron Dvorkin**, **Alan Kliger**, **Sandy Kuehl**, **Steve Lefkowitz**, **John Marangola**, **Pat Sheehan**, **Richard Sullivan**, myself (dinner chair) and **Mark Wolraich**. On Friday, Mark received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for his pioneering work in developmental and behavioral pediatrics. Classmates **David Honold**, **John Albrigo** and **Tom Danzi** attended other reunion events during the weekend. A nice feature of the Saturday dinner was the opportunity to interact with Upstate President Manosh Dewan and Dean Larry Chin. Also at dinner, Sandy Kuehl discussed the creation of a Class of 1970 Scholarship and indicated that more than \$100,000 has already been donated or pledged for this purpose. Sandy asked attendees to think of what we would like the scholarship to promote. More on this topic in the future. Overall, a very successful class reunion."

1971 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

1972

David N. Osser, of Needham, MA, is very excited about the publication of the second edition of his book *Psychopharmacology Algorithms*.

CLASS NOTES

1975

James A. Terzian, of Vestal, NY, is semi-retired, but still doing forensic pathology. "My son **James '07** is a radiologist in Syracuse. And grandson James is now six."

1976 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

1977

Stephen C. Brigham, of Saint Michaels, MD, had a long career in diagnostic imaging that has evolved in retirement to the hobby of astrophotography. "Things are looking up!" he writes.

Frank V. Messina, of Pensacola, FL, recently retired from critical care pulmonary practice after 42 years and more than 200,000 patients.

Mark W. Zilkoski, of Wolf Point, MT, welcomed his first great-grandchild. "Azia Rain Ryan Zilkoski and her mom live with us," he writes. "I am taking a year-long contemplative medicine fellowship through The

New York Zen Center, and am loving it. I hope to be able to integrate it into the care here on the reservation. Hello to all from northeast Montana!"

1978

Robert Fulop, of Short Hills, NJ, shares that his daughter Julie gave birth to his third grandchild, Ethan Miles Lickstein, on September 7. "We are very happy," he writes. Ethan's father grew up in Syracuse and still has a large family living there."

1979

Bruce A. Salzberg, of Atlanta, GA, retired in January to spend time with his family and to end a 42-year career in gastroenterology specializing in the care of inflammatory bowel disease patients. His second grandchild, Amelia, was born to daughter Carli, and daughter Lindsay was married to Patrick. "My career in GI has been a long and successful journey in many ways since my time

at Upstate Medical University," he writes.

1980

Alexander E. Weingarten, of Holliswood, NY, shares that his son Mark is a psychiatry resident at Mount Sinai in Manhattan, son **Michael '21** is a psychiatry resident at Yale, daughter Michelle is a third-year dental student at the Touro Valhalla campus, and daughter Marnie is a PhD candidate in psychology at Hofstra University.

Joanna Zolkowski-Wynne, of Fairfield, CT, is newly retired in 2025. "We are enjoying our four grandchildren, and I am rediscovering my joy in art," she writes.

1981 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

Ronald C. Brodsky, of Norfolk, VA, shares, "Our son Saul and wife Adina are expecting their second child in February. They reside in Jerusalem where Saul is a



Saul and Ronald C. Brodsky '81

Torah scholar and professional Torah scribe. We're welcoming our fourth grandchild to the family."

1982

Kathleen (Katie) Bosch Baeverstad, of Empire MI, writes, "My husband and I welcomed our first grandchild, Emmett Michael Paul, born to our daughter and her husband. Our daughter was born when I was a fourth-year student at Upstate. I retired in 2022; my medical career was in the emergency department then working for a medical malpractice insurance company. I have written a children's book, published on October 21, *Mama Sugar Bear*. The book is based on a real event in the town where we live in northern Michigan, adjacent to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. In April 2024, a black bear broke into our community's local chocolate shop, dragged a 50-pound bag of sugar out to the sidewalk (without disturbing anything else in



Azia Rain Ryan Zilkoski, great-granddaughter of Mark W. Zilkoski '77



The family of Bruce A. Salzberg '79

DENNIS DALY, MD '83

A Tradition of Care and Commitment

When Dennis Daly, MD '83, walks into his family medicine office in Camillus, New York, it's not unusual for a patient to recognize his name.

If it's not his own longtime patient, they may be thinking of his father, Roger Daly, MD '55, who had a long career as a beloved solo practitioner in Marcellus, New York. Before him, Daly's grandfather, Dennis Daly, MD '1901, practiced in Ellenberg Depot, New York, for more than 40 years, traveling by horse and carriage to deliver babies.

Today, Dr. Daly's own son, Ian Daly, MD '11, practices alongside him, making the Dalys a remarkable four-generation Upstate family devoted to medicine and community.

"I've been in the same practice location for almost 40 years," Daly says. "I'm seeing second and third generations of patients—sometimes people whose grandparents were treated by my dad. That continuity is one of the most rewarding parts of family medicine."

Daly's deep sense of continuity extends to his long service on the Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation Board, where he has spent nearly two decades championing scholarships and student support. His involvement began unexpectedly; after donating to the Foundation for 15 consecutive years, he received an invitation to a recognition dinner.

"I hadn't been keeping track," he laughs. "But after that dinner, they started talking to me about joining the board—and they reeled me in."

Since then, Daly has served in every leadership role, including a term as president that concluded just as the COVID-19 pandemic began. Through leadership transitions and accreditation challenges, he helped keep the organization focused on its mission: supporting medical students and sustaining a strong sense of alumni camaraderie.

"The Alumni Foundation plays a critical role in helping young people who want to become physicians," Daly says. "Medical school is expensive and demanding, and scholarships can make all the difference. We want students to have the freedom to choose the specialty that inspires them, not just the one that will help them pay off their loans."

Daly is quick to remind fellow alumni that Upstate Norton College of Medicine tuition, even as part of the SUNY system, is now only slightly less than that of many private schools. "The gap between state and private tuition isn't what it used to be," he notes. "And schools with larger endowments can offer much more in scholarships. So, if we want to attract the best students, we need to help level that playing field."

For Daly, giving back to Upstate is a natural extension of the values instilled by his father and grandfather. "Medicine is about relationships, helping people when they're scared or sick, and being part of their lives



Dennis Daly, MD '83

over time," he says. "That same principle applies to supporting our students. If we can take away some of their financial stress, it helps them focus on becoming the best doctors they can be."

Although he still practices three days a week, Daly enjoys a balance that allows time with his wife, three grown children, and three granddaughters—all of whom live nearby. "I'm lucky they're all local," he says. "There's always something going on: school events, sports, babysitting. It's like being back in the days when our own kids were little."

He stays active running, biking, and skiing—his favorite sport—and reading medical journals and the occasional novel. But his commitment to Upstate remains constant.

"I think alumni support is critical for the future of medicine," Daly says. "If we can make it just a little easier for students to pursue their calling—especially in primary care—it benefits all of us."

If you are interested in learning more about the Medical Alumni Foundation Board, please contact Paul Norcross, executive director, at norcrospp@upstate.edu.

CLASS NOTES



Kathleen Bosch Baeverstad '82



Kathleen Bosch Baeverstad '82 and family

the shop), and ate the entire bag. This was captured on video and went viral. In my book, this is a mama bear with two hungry cubs who didn't know that stealing is wrong. In the end, a national park ranger asks the bears to stick with berries, fish, and Michigan honey."

Joseph A. Smith, of Hillsborough, NJ, writes, "I continue to stay in family practice after 41 years working three fairly long days a week, but enjoy it still. I practice in Hillsborough, which is in central New Jersey. We have added two new granddaughters for a total of four granddaughters, ages four down to about four months. I'm also enjoying some traveling, including a cruise to Norway this summer and the Canadian Rockies separately."

Mark A. Rothschild, of Lady Lake, FL, continues working limited hours as a cardiologist at Citrus Cardiology Consultants in The Villages, FL, and spends half the year at his second home in Plymouth, MA. He also continues to enjoy travel photography with his

experiences documented on his website: www.markrothschildphoto.com.

1983

Darryl A. Zuckerman, of Olivette, MO, and wife Aurora, welcomed their first grandchild, Daniel Hayden, in June. He continues working at Yale-New Haven Hospital as an interventional radiologist and was recently selected to serve on the board of trustees of the American Board of Radiology.

1985

Mickey R. Lebowitz, and wife Anne moved to San Diego, CA, in July after 44 fabulous years in Syracuse to be closer to their children and three granddaughters. His second book, *The EQ Prescription: Put Yourself First to Thrive in Healthcare*, was published in October, a follow-up to his first book, *Losing My Patience* (eq4healthcare.com, Amazon.com). "I missed seeing former classmates and friends

at Reunion. I hope you all are well and have enjoyed, or continue to enjoy, your professional careers," he writes.

Martin Fried, of Asbury Park, NJ, is beginning a virtual consultation nutrition practice at healthdaysllc.com. He will also conduct webinars on nutrition and can be found teaching on passionclass.co (under the search term nutrition).

1986 Reunion September 18-19, 2026

1987

Rosemarie Lombardi Conigliaro, of Oyster Bay, NY, retired in August after 35 years of academic primary care at five academic institutions. "Plans include exercise, reading, and improving my Italian for staying at our retirement villa in Puglia, Italy! Ciao!" she writes.



Catherine Mahoney, MD, MPH, HS' 25, and Teresa J. Karcnik-Mahoney '88

1988

Teresa J. Karcnik-Mahoney, of Middletown, NY, shares, "It is hard to believe that both of my daughters and I are now Upstate Alumni! **Mary T. Mahoney '23** and **Catherine Mahoney, HS '25**, from the internal medicine residency program at Upstate. I traveled to Syracuse in June for her graduation dinner and enjoyed meeting her colleagues and mentors and found time to enjoy dining in the city while we were there."



Smoky Mountains National Park sunset at Clingman's Dome. Photograph by Mark Rothschild '82



Mickey R. Lebowitz '85 (far left) and family



Will '29 son of Regina Torelli '88

Regina "Gina" Torelli, of Natick, MA, writes, "I am so very proud of my son **Will '29**. My fond memories of my time at Upstate, lifelong friendships and an excellent education have so greatly enriched my life. I am so excited for Will's turn."

Richard Ostreicher, of Hakalau, HI, is living on the Big Island of Hawaii after a 30-plus-year career teaching and practicing dermatology in California and Hawaii.

1989

Pamela L. Foresman and **Brian S. Brundage**, of Auburn, NY, completed America's Great Loop in June. "We were on board our 41-foot boat for 7,600 miles and 397 nights. We boated in Canada, Georgian Bay, Lake Michigan, then through Chicago and into the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee rivers to Mobile," they write. "We spent winters in Florida and came north on the Intercoastal waterway through Georgia, the Carolinas, the Chesapeake, New Jersey, New York City, and the Hudson



The Gateway Arch, visited by Pamela Foresman '89 and Brian Brundage '89

to the Erie Canal and back to our home in the Finger Lakes near Syracuse (the center of the universe)! What's next? No idea."

Stephen R. Weinman, of New Paltz, NY, shares, "This August I visited Provincetown, and in between massive amounts of lobster rolls and beer, got together with **Larry Greenwald '89**. He was a great host and inspiration to not retire with the first wave. This spring, **Pam Foresman '89** and **Brian Brundage '89** docked their yacht in Marlboro and we got together for dinner. They are retired (first wavers) and have gone to sea, which I suppose is better than out to pasture.

I continue to work half-time or so at FirstCare and await the reemergence of diseases we learned about and promptly forgot that should emerge as vaccinations phase out."

1991 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

1993

Janice A. Bedell, New Hartford, NY, is a radiologist who is a long-term locum tenens at Upstate University Hospital at Community, in Syracuse. "I am proud to be working for my alma mater, part of



Renata Mukai, MD, and Brandon Bedell, MD, son of Janice A. Bedell '93

this prestigious University with a wonderful staff and fellow attendings," she writes. "I've been here for 13 years, as a long-term locums, I've loved the job so much. I'm very proud of my children. Brandon Bedell, MD, is an internal medicine physician; Jared Bedell, JD, a lawyer for Solomon and Cromwell in New York City, and daughter Laura Bedell is a real estate investor for Branjen Realty, working side-by-side with her dad, Robert Bedell, president and owner of Branjen Realty. She is also a dog groomer on week-ends for Shaggy Chic Salon.

My son Brandon and his fiancée, Renata Mukai, MD, are engaged with a 2026 wedding planned. He is chief internal medicine resident currently applying for endocrinology fellowships and she is finishing her OB/GYN residency, both at the University of Illinois in Chicago."

Stephanie S. DeBuck, of Freeville, NY, will soon retire from orthopedic practice in Ithaca. "It's been great fun and very rewarding taking care of a wonderful community with wonderful partners," she writes. "I am retiring so I can pursue my interest in art and spend time with my brand-new grandson Oliver. I am so proud of my son Ben, who owns a restaurant, my daughter Emma, who is Oliver's mom, and Sam, who is working as an orthopedic tech and attending nursing school. Hi to everyone! Look me up if you pass near Ithaca."



Oliver, grandson of Stephanie S. DeBuck '93, HS '98

1994

Lisa R. Berger, of Jericho, NY, is entering 29 years in internal medicine practice



Stephen R. Weinman '89 and Larry Greenwald '89

CLASS NOTES

on Long Island for PRINE Health. "I am married to Jeff Berger, MD, a gastroenterologist. Son Brian is a sophomore at Cornell studying business. During my time off, I visit my sister **Lynn Berger-Morrissey '95** and **Tom Morrissey '95** in Delray Beach, FL."

Russell Wenacur, of East Greenbush, NY, started a new role in May as the chief medical officer for the center for disability services in Albany, NY.

1995

Carolyn L. Danzi Marasco, of Wesley Chapel, FL, has worked for BayCare Health System for 24 years and is currently associate program director for BayCare Health Systems Pediatric Residency Program in Tampa, FL, and director of the residency outpatient clinic.

1996 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

2001 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

2002

Rebecca L. Bagdonas, of New York, NY, hosted the inaugural Resident Welcome Party for Upstate alumni starting residency in the New York City area. **Angela Gupta, Anjee Panjwani, Robyn Xiao, Jewel Estrella**, and **William Borchert**, all from the Upstate class of



Rebecca L. Bagdonas '02, Angela Gupta, Anjee Panjwani, Robyn B. Xiao, and Jewel D. Estrella, and William E. Borchert, all class of 2025, with Skip Lockwood, assistant director of the Medical Alumni Foundation

2025 gathered for connection, conversation, and community at Rebecca's home. They had an opportunity to share experiences about life after medical school, hear from an established alum, and relax in a home atmosphere. Rebecca plans to have more of these events to provide support and mentorship to alums throughout their residency journey.

2006 Reunion

September 18-19, 2026

Tanisha Arora, of Edison, NJ, was elected to serve as president of the New Jersey chapter of the American College of Emergency Medicine (ACEP) for 2025-2026. She will lead important advocacy efforts and plans to champion initiatives focused on advocating for emergency physicians, enhancing patient-centered care, and strengthening quality and safety in emergency departments statewide.

Elizabeth K. Nelsen, of North Sutton, NH,

has joined Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, as a pediatrician in the section of child development. She also holds an appointment as an associate professor of pediatrics at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in Hanover, NH. Previously she was a general academic pediatrician and associate professor of pediatrics at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital and Upstate Medical University in Syracuse for 15 years.

Renee M. Reynolds, of Orchard Park, NY, is clinical associate professor of neurosurgery in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical

Sciences, at the University of Buffalo and was recently named the inaugural Kevin and Janet Gibbons Endowed Chair of Neurosurgery in May.

2008

Sarah E. Matt, of Fayetteville, NY, writes "My book, *The Borderless Healthcare Revolution*, will be published by Wiley in December 2025. Drawing on my journey from surgeon to technology strategist, the book introduces The Five Pillars of Access: a framework for fixing our broken systems. It is a practical guide to building a future where technology and intentional policy design make quality healthcare truly accessible for everyone. I hope you will look for it."



Renee Reynolds '06, second from left, receiving her award

SARAH FABIANO, MD '10

Enhancing Prehospital Emergency Care



Sarah Fabiano, MD '10

When an emergency unfolds—on a highway, at a football stadium, or in a living room—what happens before a patient ever reaches the hospital can determine everything that follows. For Sarah Fabiano, MD '10, that critical “prehospital” window has become both her passion and her professional calling.

Dr. Fabiano has emerged as a national leader in prehospital medicine, bridging the worlds of emergency care, education, and research. As medical control physician for Clemson University Fire and EMS and medical director of the *Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS)*, she shapes how emergency responders across the country deliver lifesaving care long before a patient ever sees a doctor.

“I’ve always been drawn to the intersection between emergency medicine and education,” Fabiano says. “Working with prehospital providers, the people who are truly on the front lines, is what I’m tailored toward.”

“I’ve always been drawn to the intersection between emergency medicine and education,” Fabiano says. “Working with prehospital providers, the people who are truly on the front lines, is what I’m tailored toward.”

Fabiano’s path to medicine began with a master’s degree in physical therapy from D’Youville University. Although she loved working hands-on with patients, she found herself wanting to do more.

That instinct led her to medical school at Upstate. Fabiano credits great support from her advisor, Barry Berg, PhD, and the mentorship of Richard Cantor, MD '76, and Mitchell Brody, MD, in the Emergency Department. She excelled academically and was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha as a junior and received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award as a senior.

After completing an emergency residency at the University of Rochester, Fabiano moved to Greenville, South Carolina, drawn by a role that combined academic and community medicine—and by the chance to escape Upstate New York winters.

In Greenville, Fabiano found her niche, becoming deeply involved in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), eventually earning board certification in both Emergency Medicine and EMS Medicine—a dual distinction achieved by only a small fraction of physicians nationwide.

Today, her work spans air, ground, and stadium-based EMS systems. As medical control physician for Clemson University Fire and EMS, she oversees emergency care for the university community, including the massive crowds that fill Memorial Stadium each football weekend. Under her leadership, the program has evolved beyond traditional first aid. “We’re treating more people on-site instead of automatically transferring them to the hospital,” she says. “It’s safer for patients and more efficient for the system.”

Her influence extends well beyond campus. Through her role with *JEMS*, Fabiano ensures the publication’s medical accuracy and relevance while mentoring EMS providers nationwide through podcasts, webinars, and conference presentations. She also co-hosts “911 in the 864,” a

popular podcast where she and a colleague dissect real-world cases and explore the latest developments in prehospital care.

Fabiano’s own research focuses on closing critical gaps in early diagnosis and emergency response. One project trains EMS providers to perform a simple finger-to-nose test to identify posterior circulation strokes—a type often missed by standard screening tools. “These strokes are tricky and frequently overlooked,” she says. “We want to give prehospital providers tools that make a difference in the first few minutes of care.” The project has grown into a multi-agency initiative with plans to present findings to the American Heart Association.

Another initiative tackles the issue of 911 system overload. Through a countywide grant-funded program, Fabiano and her team are piloting an alternative response model that routes non-emergency 911 calls—such as minor illnesses or injuries—to community paramedics and nurse practitioners rather than hospital emergency departments.

“People are calling 911 for the same reason they go to the ER—because they don’t have access to primary care,” Fabiano says. “If we can meet them where they are and connect them to the right resources, we can improve outcomes for everyone.”

Even with multiple leadership roles, Fabiano continues to practice clinically three to four days a week across several hospitals, including a Level I trauma center. Her commitment has earned her South Carolina’s Medical Director of the Year award twice, as well as fellowship honors from both the American College of Emergency Physicians and the American Academy of Emergency Medicine.

She’s also an educator at heart, mentoring EMTs, paramedics, residents, and medical students. “There’s nothing more rewarding than watching someone you’ve trained apply their knowledge in a real emergency,” she says. “That’s what keeps me going.”

—Renée Gearhart Levy



Dr. Fabiano conducts training with EMS personnel.

CLASS NOTES

2011 Reunion
September 18-19, 2026

2016 Reunion
September 18-19, 2026

2018

Joseph Chin, of Fresno, CA, is an attending at Kaiser Permanente in Clovis, in physical medicine and rehabilitation/sports medicine.

2019

Karen I. Cyndari, of Coralville, IA, was the June recipient of a K08 through NIAMS with a project focusing on immune regulation in the setting of Lyme arthritis. "I promptly cracked open the good stuff. Fingers crossed for all my colleagues still struggling through federal changes—truly living in interesting times," she writes.

Matthew M. Fanous, of Mahopac, NY, is happy to share news of his engagement to Marina Boulos. "I am very excited and blessed to start a new chapter in my life with Marina," he writes.

Jonathan Li, of Southington, CT, welcomed twin newborns on July 17, Logan Ren Li and Adelaide Rae Li.



Adelaide Rae Li and Logan Ren Li, twins of Jonathon Li '19

MPH

Bridget (Lenkiewicz) Volz was honored as a Central New York 40 under Forty award recipient in November 2025 by the CNY Business Journal. She was recognized for her contributions to local public health through her decade of service at the Onondaga County Health Department. In her current role as the health department's epidemiologist, she leads the

development of Onondaga County's Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan, which guides how local public health priorities are set.

RESIDENTS

Andrew Tisser, of Clarence, NY, and emergency medicine residency class of 2017, shares a new venture that he co-founded: Franks & Dranks, a gourmet hot dog and cocktail tasting kit that ships nationwide. The company brings people together in a playful way with a premium food and drink experience and makes for a memorable alternative to traditional gifts. "Anyone interested in more information please visit franksanddranks.com," he writes.



Franks & Dranks, a new venture by Andrew Tisser, HS '17



Bridget (Lenkiewicz) Volz, MPH



Marina Boulos and Matthew M. Fanous '19

I N M E M O R I A M

1947

SHIRLEY FERGUSON RAYPORT, of Canton, MA, died September 17 at 102. She was a pioneering neuropsychiatrist, educator, and advocate for integrated, patient-centered care. Born in Syracuse, Dr. Ferguson Rayport was a gifted violinist and initially aspired to a career in music before turning to medicine, earning her BA from Syracuse University in 1944 and her MD from Syracuse University (now SUNY Upstate Medical University), one of three women in her class. She trained in psychiatry at the U.S. Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington, KY (1951–53), where she embraced an emerging brain-based approach to psychiatry, and at McGill University in Montreal (1954–55), where she studied innovative treatments for mental illness and the behavioral dimensions of epilepsy. In 1950, she met neurosurgeon Mark Rayport, MD, whom she married six months later. In the 1960's, they initiated an integrated team approach to the treatment of epilepsy at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In the 1970's, they became founding members of the Epilepsy Comprehensive Center at the Medical College of Ohio (now the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences). They developed a multidisciplinary "whole patient" model that integrated neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, and social work—an approach that earned national and international recognition and advanced understanding of the mind-brain relationship. Ferguson Rayport was a respected leader in neuropsychiatry and a devoted teacher. As director of the Medical College Unit at the Toledo Mental Health Center (1971–82), she championed interdisciplinary and creative therapies and was known for reminding students that "beneath every psychiatric symptom is a human being striving for meaning and dignity." Following her husband's death in 2003, she established the Mark Rayport and Shirley Ferguson Rayport Fellowship in Epilepsy Surgery at the Montreal Neurological Institute. She continued to publish actively into her 90s, co-authoring articles and a book on epilepsy and the mind-brain relationship. Ferguson Rayport is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. She will be remembered for her intellect, compassion, and enduring influence on generations of physicians and patients alike.

1950

PAUL G. GEISS, of North Redington Beach, FL, died June 15. Dr. Geiss was a Navy lieutenant in World War II and the Korean War. He also received a lay pastoral degree from The Athenaeum of Ohio. He spent his career practicing as an internist and as a cardiologist in the

Cincinnati area, was a member of the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine, and served as a jail chaplain at the Hamilton County Justice Center. He was devoted to his Catholic faith. Geiss was survived by his wife Claire; daughters Paula, Gail, Lori, and Jennifer; sons Gary, Jeffery, David, Donald, Griffin, and Neal; and 23 grandchildren.

1952

NORMAN R. LOOMIS, of Ontario, NY, died November 8. Dr. Loomis attended Oberlin College, his studies interrupted by service in the U.S. Navy, graduating in 1948. He earned his medical degree from Syracuse University (now Upstate Medical University) in 1952 and completed his internship and residency at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY, in 1954. That same year, he moved to Ontario, NY, where he met his future bride, Laura "Jinny" Russell. They married in 1956, and he quickly became the trusted hometown doctor. Loomis was a member of First Presbyterian Church and the Ontario-Walworth Rotary Club. He chaired the Family Medicine Department at Rochester General Hospital, served as president of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians, was a physician at the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics, and participated in the 1998 Heart to Heart Medical Airlift in Siberia. He lived a life caring for others, serving his community, living his faith, loving his family, and loving life. Loomis was predeceased by his daughter, Lynne. He was survived by his wife, Jinny; daughter Jane; son Richard; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Contributions in his memory can be made to the Dr. N.R. Loomis Family Medicine Scholarship at Upstate Norton College of Medicine, Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation, Suite 1510 Setnor Academic Bldg., 750 E. Adams St. Syracuse, NY 13210.

1953

ROBERT T. BURAN, of Plattsburgh, NY, died September 18. Dr. Buran served his country enlisting in the U.S. Navy as a seaman first class. He studied radar repair and received electrical engineering training. He was honorably discharged in 1946. After earning his medical degree, he had a rotating internship at St. Joseph Hospital in Syracuse, a one-year pathology residency at Upstate Medical University, and a three-year residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. In 1958, he became board certified in radiology and moved to Plattsburgh, where he established Associates in Radiology and worked as a radiologist at Champlain Valley Hospital, and later at CVPH Medical Center until his retirement in 1999. Buran founded the CVPH School of Radiologic Technology, which

has trained untold numbers of x-ray technologists and is a legacy that continues to this day. He also received special recognition from his peers by being awarded a fellowship in the American College of Radiology. Buran was survived by his sons, Robert, James, Jeffrey, and David.

1960

MARK GREENSPAN, of Virginia Beach, VA, died August 5, 2024. Dr. Greenspan was a distinguished physician and attorney. He served his country as a ship's doctor in the U.S. Navy and moved to Norfolk in 1962. Following his naval service, he completed surgical residency at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx, returning to Norfolk again in 1968. He spent more than 35 years as a renowned local surgeon. He served members of the community who otherwise could not afford surgical care, many traveling great distances to see him. During the 1980s, he was one of two surgeons willing to operate on AIDS patients in all Southeastern Virginia. He testified before the Senate committee to help Sentara Norfolk General get funding for its first Nightingale Helicopter and was instrumental in the creation of Hampton Roads' first trauma center. Greenspan's passions were medicine, medical ethics and medical education. He served as chief of surgery at DePaul Hospital and helped to draft ethics standards for the medical community. He graduated from William & Mary Law School at age 65 after retiring in his early 60s. He spent his last professional decade practicing law before the Vaccine Injury Court in Washington, DC. Greenspan was survived by his wife, Betty; former wife Ethel-Ray, and their children Jeffrey, Amy-Ann, and John-Jay; four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and family.

1961

DONALD R. TULLOCH, of Rochester, NY, died July 3. Dr. Tulloch was an intern and resident at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. He later moved to Skaneateles, NY, where he opened his practice in family medicine. He was the kindest, most caring, and compassionate man who touched the lives of many over the years. He served the community in family practice for 40 years, making house calls until the day he retired. He was survived by his wife, Maureen; children Kathleen, Christine, Thomas, Lauren, and Jonathan; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

I N M E M O R I A M

1962

JEANETTE STURGES LAMB (SCHOONMAKER), of Louisa, VA, died April 8. Dr. Schoonmaker was one of only two female students in her medical school class. She completed her internship and residencies at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Menninger School of Psychiatry, and Upstate Medical University. Her medical career included work in private practice, state hospitals, community mental health clinics, and adolescent treatment programs. She also taught medical students and completed a fellowship in environmental medicine. Schoonmaker was survived by her daughter, Amy; sons Matthew and Daniel; and two grandchildren.

1965

JOSEPH T. BLACK, of Clayton, NY, died June 17. Dr. Black began his training at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in 1965 and served as a doctor in the U.S. Air Force and later joined the private practice of Levy, Berg, and Weiss as a neurologist. He was a longtime teacher in the Department of Neurology at Washington University School of Medicine and led the neurology resident morning report for 15 years, training hundreds of physicians in the art and science of neurology. Black was survived by his wife, Julie; son Hugh; two grandsons; two stepsons and one nephew.

RICHARD PAUL KRADEL, of Fayetteville, AR, died June 5. Dr. Kradel was an OB/GYN who moved to Fort Smith in 1973 and together with his wife Eileen brought innovations such as prepared childbirth, natural childbirth, and father participation in deliveries. He practiced for more than 40 years and delivered well over 1,000 babies at St. Edwards (now Mercy) Hospital. He was highly respected for his skill as a physician; his greatest traits in that role were compassion, empathy, and the ability to listen. He believed that being someone's doctor was a privilege. Kradel was survived by his wife, Eileen; daughter Katrina; sons Joseph and Jeffrey; son-in-law Peter; and five grandchildren.

1969

THOMAS ELLIOTT ROOT, of Portland, OR, died October 27, 2024. Dr. Root completed his medical training at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago along with two years of military service at Great Lakes Naval Base. For more than 40 years, he worked as an infectious disease physician in Rockford, IL, where he cared for countless patients and became a respected member of the medical community. He was

associate professor emeritus at the University of Illinois College of Medicine-Rockford and was recipient of numerous teaching awards. Root was survived by his wife, Carole, and family.

1970

WALTER F. ERSTON, of Charlotte, NC, died February 25. Dr. Erston joined the U.S. Army transportation corps in 1960 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1961. He earned a promotion to captain before being honorably discharged from active duty on December 3, 1962, and continued to serve in the Army Reserves until 1970. In 1989, he was appointed a major in the Vermont Air National Guard. He was licensed by the National Board of Medical Examiners in 1971 and completed his residency in radiology at Rochester General Hospital, where he served as chief resident. In 1974, he received certification in diagnostic radiology from the American Board of Radiology and became a member of the American College of Radiology. After residency, he took a job as a radiologist at the Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira, NY. In 1981, he and his family moved to St. Albans, VT, where he spearheaded the radiology department in the local hospital. He was a pioneer in the use of mammography for early breast cancer detection in a time when routine mammograms were not the norm. In 1989, he traveled the country with locums tenens positions at various hospitals. He also obtained his commercial pilot's license, serving private clients and transporting cargo. Erston was survived by his daughter, Hillary; son Eric; two grandsons; and stepchildren Julie, David and John.

1971

JOHN W. GOLLATZ, of Ashburn, VA, died July 17, 2023. Dr. Gollatz moved to Pittsburgh, PA, where he practiced urology for more than 30 years. He was a talented surgeon, widely known for his wonderful, warm bedside manner. He was beloved by his patients and hospital colleagues. Gollatz was survived by his wife, Catherine; children Brian and Christine; and eight grandchildren.

1972

F. DAVID ROLLO, of San Jose, CA, died October 21, 2022. Dr. Rollo continued research in nuclear medicine after earning his degree. He was accepted at UC San Francisco, where he taught and published articles on nuclear medicine physics, instrumentation and agents. After five years at UCSF, he was offered a position as dean of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

He was later recruited by Humana Hospital as senior vice president for medical affairs and chief medical officer. In 1966, he joined Philips Medical Systems as their international chief medical officer, where he was responsible for research, development, and quality of medical equipment developed and sold by Philips. In 2006, he was recruited by CellPoint in San Mateo, CA, to serve as president and chief technology officer. In collaboration with MD Anderson, he developed the first molecular imaging agent that could be used for diagnosing, staging, and treating all cancer types, as well as early diagnosis of heart attacks. Rollo was survived by his wife, Linda; and son Alex.

1973

DANIEL C. ELLISON, of Glenfield, NY, died September 28. Dr. Ellison completed his medical internship and residency at the University of Connecticut and became a general surgeon. He completed an externship at Lewis County General Hospital in summer 1972. In 1978, he returned to Lowville and began surgical practice. He was a member of the Lewis County Medical Society, a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery, a fellow the American College of Surgeons, and assistant clinical professor of surgery at Upstate Medical University. He always wanted his patients to feel heard and truly cared for. Ellison was survived by his wife, Susan; daughters Mary, Kathryn and Anne; and seven grandchildren.

1975

JAMES A. DISPENZA, of Liverpool, NY, died July 25. Dr. Dispenza practiced medicine in his adopted community of Syracuse for more than four decades. He was known as an empathetic, tireless, and compassionate physician who loved his patients and his calling, and he whistled on his way to work every day. Dispenza was survived by his wife, Donna; daughters Mary and Laurie; son James; and eight grandchildren.

1976

LAWRENCE B. GROSS, of Somerset, NJ, died January 27, 2019. He was director of Robert Wood Johnson's Continuing Medical Education program, had been medical director of the Central New Jersey Jewish Home, and made a significant contribution to geriatric care. He owned Quailbrook Family Physicians in Somerset and was sole practitioner there for more than 30 years. Gross was survived by his wife Linda; son Michael; daughter Carrie; and three granddaughters.

REMEMBERING DAVID DUGGAN, MD '79

A Doctor's Doctor

DAVID B. DUGGAN, MD '79, former dean of the Norton College of Medicine, died October 1.

Dr. Duggan grew up in Dewitt, New York, the son of a doctor and a nurse. During medical school at Upstate, he was attracted by the diagnostic encounters of internal medicine. "I enjoyed the problem-solving challenges," he once told the *Alumni Journal*, and was steered to hematology/oncology by mentors whose example he wanted to emulate: William J. Williams, MD, Arlan Gottlieb, MD, Bob Comis, MD, and Frank Oski, MD.

After earning his MD, Duggan went to Boston to train at the New England Medical Center, completing residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in hematology/oncology. He met his future wife his very first day. Although it was several years before Duggan and Lynn Cleary, MD, became a couple, they were married in 1985 and the same month moved to Central New York to begin careers at Upstate.

Duggan joined the faculty at Upstate Medical University as a member of the Department of Internal Medicine and the division of hematology/oncology. He specialized in the care of patients with lymphoma and breast cancer, engaged in clinical research, and enjoyed teaching students, residents, and fellows, receiving multiple teaching awards over his career.

He served in leadership roles nationally with the Cancer and Leukemia Group B, and published studies that advanced the care of patients with lymphoma and breast cancer.

Although he never set out to have a career in administration, he said yes when asked to chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Upstate in 1993. That led to nearly 16 years at the helm of the department before serving as quality officer for University Hospital, then associate vice president for clinical affairs. In 2011, he was named interim dean of the College of Medicine after the Liaison Committee on Medical Education put the College of Medicine on probation. His calm leadership while steering the school back on track made a positive impression and he was named dean in 2013. Then President David R. Smith, MD, referred to Duggan as "a leader, who, as an

alumnus, understands the importance of upholding the rich tradition of a solid academic medical program that is leading the way in educating physicians for our communities." He served in that role until 2016 and then returned to active clinical hematology/oncology practice.

Duggan is remembered for always finding a way to connect with his patients and their families, through a shared hobby, mutual friend, or favorite corner of Upstate New York. As a leader, he appreciated excellence and understood strengths and vulnerabilities of people. He was kind, supported colleagues unconditionally, and could make hard decisions when needed.

During his career, he published dozens of peer-reviewed manuscripts, most dealing with clinical care of patients with breast cancer and lymphomas. He served as president of the Onondaga County Medical Society and held leadership positions with the American Joint Committee on Cancer and the American College of Physicians (ACP). Duggan was elected a Master of the ACP, an honor bestowed upon only a small group of highly distinguished physicians each year, selected from among ACP fellows, and was promoted to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, the highest rank the State University of New York can bestow on faculty.

Duggan found his career treating cancer patients deeply gratifying. "Translating complicated disease to someone when their life is at stake is both challenging and rewarding," he said in 2013. Sadly, he died from complications of leukemia and lymphoma.

Duggan's greatest joy was spending time with family. He was survived by his wife, Lynn; daughter Abigail; sons Joseph and Samuel; one grandson; one granddaughter on the way; and several other family members.



1980

TIMOTHY I. SHOEN, of Saratoga Springs, NY, died August 10. Dr. Shoen completed an internship at the University of Tennessee Medical Center of Knoxville. He completed his residency in emergency medicine through the University of Massachusetts residency program in 1985 and was board certified in emergency medicine. He worked in many hospital settings throughout his career and settled in Saratoga Springs, where he later was co-founder of the Saratoga Emergency Physicians (SEP) group. He was a part of SEP from 1989 through 2000. He served as chief medical officer at St. Mary's Hospital in Amsterdam, NY, from 1995 to 2014. After retirement, he stayed active in the medical community by focusing his

attention on patient safety and healthcare quality. He earned a master of science degree in healthcare quality and safety from Thomas Jefferson University. Shoen was survived by his daughters, Kara and Megan; and one granddaughter.

2015

MICHAEL C. STORONSKY, of Fairport, NY, died July 19. Dr. Storonsky completed his internship year at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse and completed a residency and fellowship in dermatology at University of Connecticut. During his final semester of residency, when many people were sequestered home during the COVID-19

pandemic, he was asked to assist an attending physician with life threatening skin cancer surgeries. During that time, he was exposed to patients with COVID, and as a result, was subsequently diagnosed with propriospinal myoclonus, a neurologic disorder that periodically affected his ability to sleep and caused seizures. Storonsky stayed at UConn for the next five years as an attending physician and assistant professor, health permitting, where he saw more than 10,000 patients and trained residents and medical students. He also was responsible for counseling medical students seeking to be accepted in dermatology residency programs. Storonsky was survived by his parents, Michael and Linda; sister Natasha; nephew Stephen; niece Natalie; and family.

I N M E M O R I A M

Residents

MICHAEL BRAMS, of Cardiff by the Sea, CA, died August 30. Dr. Brams graduated from University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He trained as a pediatrician at Upstate from 1973 to 1976 and was chief resident. He joined the Public Health Service Corps for two years in the Mojave Desert, which he followed with a nephrology fellowship at Scripps and then returned to the Mojave Desert to practice pediatrics for 42 years with fellow Upstate resident, **Joe Maloney**. He retired seven years ago to Cardiff, CA. Brams was survived by his wife, Janis; daughters Rebecca and Laura; and five grandchildren.

WILLIAM ALBERT KERN, JR., of Smith Mountain Lake, VA, died January 20, 2023. Dr. Kern attended University of Rochester School of Medicine. In 1956, he began his post-graduate medical training in Minneapolis, MN, and then moved to Fairfax, VA, where he served as a captain in the U.S. Army and worked as a medical officer at Fort Myer. Next came Upstate Medical University, where he finished his residency in internal medicine. In 1962, he moved to Greece, NY, where he lived for 34 years. Kern established a busy solo internal medicine practice and worked out of his home office for 30 years as a talented and caring physician. He retired in 1992, and in 1995, started a new phase working as a locum tenens physician, working until age 84. Kern was survived by his children, Jenny, Emily and John; and nine grandchildren.

LAWRENCE LITTELL, of Trenton, MI, died May 12. Dr. Littell was a proud U.S. Marine veteran. He was survived by his daughters, Jeanette and Loreen; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

HORACE MURDOCK, JR., of Houston, TX, died February 23, 2017. Dr. Murdock attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. He completed his general surgery internship in Chicago, IL, in 1973 and general surgery residency at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston, TX, in 1977. In 1979, he completed his vascular fellowship in Mineola, NY

and his thoracic and cardiovascular surgery fellowship at Upstate Medical University in 1981. In 1982, he returned to Nashville and completed a cardiac surgery fellowship. He settled in Houston and established his practice at St. Joseph's Hospital. He was a lifelong student of surgery and loved being in the operating room, where he saved countless lives. Murdock was survived by his wife, Sylvia; sons David, Brian and Colin; and daughter Lauren.

LEWIS MARK SLATER, of Howell, NJ, died August 21, 2022. Dr. Slater attended University of Vermont Medical School. He completed his internship at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Staten Island, followed by a residency in internal medicine at Upstate Medical University. He also completed a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the University of Rochester College of Medicine and Dentistry. Slater was a former professor of medicine and pathology in the department of medicine at the UCI School of Medicine. He joined UCI in 1975 as a physician scientist and served as a practicing hematology/oncology sub-specialist and ran an active research laboratory. Slater was survived by his wife, Grace; children, and grandchildren.

DANIEL A. TATPATI, of Wichita, KS, died September 25, 2023. Dr. Tatpati was a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon and was founder of Guadalupe Clinic. He was survived by his wife, Olga; daughters Krupa and Sheila; son Abraham; and nine grandchildren.

FACULTY

RICHARD R. GACEK, of Worcester, MA, died September 5. Dr. Gacek received his medical degree from SUNY Buffalo and completed an internship at Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo. After his internship he completed a research fellowship at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD. During his fellowship, he served in the U.S. Navy. Following his research fellowship, he started residency at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI, and completed

his residency at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston. He published numerous articles and books and focused much of his time on understanding Meniere's disease. His research provided a deep legacy to the medical community and his reputation as an engaging and wise lecturer made him a sought-after speaker across the world. He was a member of the International Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum and was past president of the Triological Society and the American Otological Society. Earlier in his career, Gacek was an associate surgeon at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston and an associate professor in otolaryngology at Harvard Medical School. After Harvard, he became professor and chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology at UMass Medical School, followed by professor and chairman at Upstate Medical University. He then was a professor of otolaryngology at the University of South Alabama, Mobile, followed by his last stop as a professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He published his last book, *Meniere's Disease: Myth and Reality* in 2020 at the age of 90. Gacek was survived by his wife, Elaine; children Mary, Mark, Richard and Catherine; and seven grandchildren.

PHILIP HOLTZAPPLE, of Jamesville, NY, died September 29. Dr. Holtzapple was an emeritus professor of medicine at Upstate Medical University and dedicated himself to the work and people of the Department of Gastroenterology. He was a physician, teacher, and mentor touching the lives of many. He studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Holtzapple was survived by his wife, Della Mae; daughters Ali and Gretchen; and five grandchildren.

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JOIN OUR ONLINE CAREER ADVISORY NETWORK and become a physician mentor to Norton College of Medicine students. The Network gives current medical students the opportunity to connect with alumni, resident alumni, and local physicians. Whether you are a new resident who would like to share advice on the transition after commencement, or an experienced and established physician interested in connecting and recruiting medical students, your advice is invaluable. Mentors will be included in our secure online Career Advisory Mentor Directory. Sign up or update your information online at medalumni.upstate.edu/career-mentor

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