



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA

Nienke P. Dosa, MD, MPH

Class of 1994

Nienke P. Dosa, MD '94, MPH, is a developmental pediatrician who joined the Upstate faculty in 2002. She currently holds the Upstate Foundation Professorship in Child Health Policy and is a Senior Fellow at Syracuse University's Burton Blatt Institute. Dr. Dosa is a graduate of Yale University, the Upstate Medical University College of Medicine, and Upstate's Pediatric Residency Program, where she was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. She was the recipient of a National Research Service Award at the University of Rochester, where she obtained a Master of Public Health degree and completed fellowship training in neurodevelopmental disabilities. While at Rochester, Dosa received the Clausen Research Award to study the health care of children with developmental disabilities in neonatal and pediatric ICUs in the Netherlands. She is board certified in pediatrics and in neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Dosa's clinical practice is the care of children and adolescents who have spina bifida, cerebral palsy, and vision impairment/blindness. Her academic work focuses on the

development and evaluation of community-based models for developmental disability care, particularly as this relates to transition to adulthood and inclusive fitness. As medical director of the Spina Bifida Center of Central New York, she launched a group visit program that has received national recognition. She works closely with faculty in the Department of Adapted Physical Education at SUNY Cortland, Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, and the Syracuse University School of Education. Via her affiliation with the Burton Blatt Institute, she also works with scholars in public policy and disability law.

Dosa is a member of the Professional Advisory Council of the Spina Bifida Association and leads the research reviews for that organization. She is also active in the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. She was the recipient of that organization's Transformative Care Award for work she is doing with the Department of Orthopedics at Columbia University to launch a lifespan care program at the Weinberg Cerebral Palsy Center in Manhattan. She is involved with multiple



initiatives related to the transition from pediatric to adult health care. She is a member of the executive cabinet of the National Center for Health Care Transition and has published numerous scholarly articles and textbook chapters on lifespan care for individuals with developmental disabilities. She has also produced six instructional DVDs, a 10-part curriculum on healthcare transition for youth with developmental disabilities (www.HealthyTransitionsNY.org), and a series of guidebooks on inclusive fitness for high school students.

Dosa is interested in pipeline initiatives to bring students into the field of developmental disability care. Each summer she offers internships to local high school and college students. She launched "Parent Partners in Health Education," a home visit program that introduced residents in pediatrics, family medicine, and psychiatry to systems of care for patients with developmental disabilities. Since 2006,



she has directed the New York State Institute for Health Transition Training, and in 2010, she was appointed to the New York State Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Locally, Dosa is active with "Unique," an annual art show by individuals with developmental disabilities that is organized by Arise Inc. at the Everson Museum. She helped bring the "Project Search" Supported Employment Program to University Hospital. With support from her Upstate Foundation Endowed Professorship, she has launched an annual "Fit-IN" conference to promote inclusive fitness in Central New York. She is involved with numerous adapted sports and health promotion programs for people with developmental disabilities and has received more than \$1-million in grant support for various community-based initiatives since joining the Upstate faculty.

Dosa and her late husband, attorney Joseph Dosa (deceased 2012), have three daughters, Nadine (22), Jolene (19), and Martine (10), all active in the arts. The Dosa family lives in Syracuse.

**BIO SUBMITTED BY DR. DOSA*