

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Announcements

Gregory Conners, MD, MPH, MBA, Named Nation's First B. Thomas Golisano Professor of Pediatrics!

Our very own Dr. Greg Conners has been named the first-ever B. Thomas Golisano Professor of Pediatrics! This special honor recognizes his exceptional leadership in pediatric medicine and emergency care, and his commitment to improving the lives of children and families. The professorship is named after Tom Golisano, a generous philanthropist whose support has transformed children's health services at Upstate. Dr. Conners will continue to lead efforts in care, education, and advocacy—building on a career dedicated to making a difference. We are proud to have you as a leader at Upstate Golisano!

Read the full story [here](#).

Panera Grand Opening!

Panera is expected to open on the 11th floor 10/29 and will be open 24/7! Pre-ordering should be available! Find the menu [here](#).

39th Annual Nursing Excellence Awards!

Upstate recently hosted its annual Nursing Excellence Celebration, honoring nurses across the organization. Among the honorees were several incredible nurses from Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, and we're proud to celebrate their achievements and the difference they make every day for our patients and families. ❤️ While not all award recipients were able to attend, we extend our congratulations to each and every one of them for this well-deserved recognition! Pictures [here](#)!

39th Annual Nursing Excellence Awards, October 15th, 2025

Downtown:

Shaun Lamphear (Pediatric Hem/Onc)

William Melfi (Pediatric Emergency)

DAISY Individual Award:

Megan Muller (Pediatric Hem/Onc)

BEE Award:

Jan Morabito, Front Desk (Pediatric Nephrology/Rheumatology)

Umeshchandra Patil Family Pediatric Endowment Education & Enrichment Award

Karen MacNaught, BSN, RN, CPN (11E)

Ted (Edmund) Freeborn, RN, MSN, BA, CCRN (Pediatric Quality & Safety)

Kerryanna Elhadge, MS, BSN, RN, CNML, HNB-BC, BCC (11G)

Preceptor of the Year Award:

Kelley Noonan, RN (12F)

Maureen O'Hara Award:

Anne Galloway, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P (McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center)

Innovation of the Year Award:

Bridgett Langstaff, MSN, RN, CCRN, CPPS (Pediatric Quality & Safety)

William Painter Managerial Practice Award:

Alana Guidetti, BSN, RN, CNML, CPN (12E)

Nancy Page Nursing Leadership Award:

Michelle Zoanetti, MSN, MBA, RN, NEA-BC (Pediatric Emergency)

Important Reminders

2025 Brightspace Education

As we approach the end of the year, please take a moment to ensure you've completed all required education in Brightspace. If you have any questions, contact Tracie Wildner.

Walk-In Clinics for Flu & Covid Vaccinations

Anyone with a valid Upstate ID is invited to receive a free influenza and Covid vaccination at one of the walk-in clinics listed below. No appointment is needed. The schedule is as follows:

- Oct. 28 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Performance Center at Golisano
- Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bubble Room in Weiskotten Library
- Nov. 4 from 7:30 a.m. to noon, 510 Jacobsen Hall
- Nov. 6 from 7:30 a.m. to noon, 510 Jacobsen Hall
- Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Nappi Wellness Fair
- Nov. 13 from 7:30 a.m. to noon, 510 Jacobsen Hall

The Flu Crew will provide evening and night shift vaccinations via mobile carts. Questions? Email Employee Student Health at ESHealth@Upstate.edu. Online listings for the clinics are available here: <https://www.upstate.edu/health/calendar.php> and <https://calendar.upstate.edu>.

Upcoming Events

November Theme Days!


























11/17 Disney Day! – Wear your ears day & Disney attire

11/18 National Injury Prevention Day - Staff Wear Green

Child Life Calendar

October 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

27  Family Lunch 11th Floor Performance Center 11:45am-12:30pm	28  Tech and Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	29  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2:30pm	30  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	31  Halloween Parade 11th Floor Performance Center 10:50am
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November 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 12:00pm	4  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	5  Slime with a Med Student 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	6  Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11:00am and 1:00pm	7  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
10  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 12:00pm	11  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	12  Slime with a Med Student 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	13  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	14  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
17  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 12:00pm	18  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	19  Project Sunshine Activity 12th Floor Family Resource Center 1:00pm	20  Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11:00am and 1:00pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	21  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
24	25  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	26  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2:30pm-3:30pm	27  Thanksgiving Dinner Delivered to patient rooms Between 11:30am and 1:00pm	28  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
1  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 12:00pm	2  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	3  Slime with a Med Student 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	4  Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11:00am and 1:00pm	5  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
*All events are subject to change and your/your child's ability to participate depends on everyone's health and safety. Please ask your nurse before attending any events.				

Ambulatory Updates

Pediatric After Hours is Moving! 🚚

Effective November 4, Pediatric After Hours will be relocating from Community Campus to the NAPPI Wellness Institute (725 E Adams St), operating within the UPAC space (4th floor). Our hours of operation will remain the same, with patient walk-ins accepted from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends.

We will continue to provide care for children with lower acuity conditions and perform minor procedures, supported by on-site laboratory and imaging capabilities. Parking will be available in both Garage West and Garage East, with access to the building until 11:00 p.m. Families will also benefit from the convenience of an on-site pharmacy for medication pick-up, open until 11:00 p.m., daily.

Inpatient Updates

Pediatric Quality & Safety

The October newsletter can be found [here](#).

Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC)

The Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC) is made up of parents and families of children who have received care at the hospital. The council meets monthly from September to June to offer input on programs, policies, and procedures affecting patients and families.

As the PFAC continues to grow, they're actively looking for new members. If you know a family member of a child treated here, whether inpatient or outpatient, please share this [application](#) with them to submit their interest in becoming a Family Advisor.

Staffing



Congratulations are in order! ✨

🎉 **Dawn Kelly** promoted to Senior Office Manager and **Kathy Valentino** promoted to Operations Manager, effective immediately. Their responsibilities remain the same. The change is a result of a recent reorganization of administrative leadership in Ambulatory services.

🎉 **Jessica Giannino-Woodward**, promoted to Director of Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Services in which she will have expanded responsibilities in overseeing business functions of the Biobehavioral Health Unit and the Golisano Center for Special Needs.

🎉 **Amanda Bane**, RN, promotion to Assistant Nurse Manager for the Pediatric Float and Support pool. Amanda was serving as the Clinical Trainer for the Pediatric Float and Support Pools at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, a role that she has held for the past two years. Her nursing career has been deeply rooted in pediatric care, with prior experience in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology in inpatient and outpatient settings.

🎉 **Dr. Angela Mojica Sanabria**, Peds Endo Faculty, promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics!



🎉 **Dr. Marcus Rivera**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, has been appointed Division Director of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition effective immediately. Dr. Rivera has been serving as Interim Director since November 2024. Dr. Rivera has been a faculty member of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital since June 2010. We are pleased to have Dr. Rivera in this capacity permanently and we thank him for serving as Interim Division Director.



Nick Rosanio from Food Services is our Superhero of the Month for October!!!

Nick is attentive to both patients and staff. He goes above and beyond to ensure the correct meals are prepared and delivered, and always does it with a smile. He is caring and easy to get along with. He works well with the nursing staff and is polite to everyone. His determination does not go unnoticed by staff. Way to go!

Happy Anniversary

Share your work anniversaries with Mary Melice so we can celebrate our team's dedication each month!

1 YEAR

Tanzida Khatun, Behavior Tech, GCSN
LaKeitha Patterson, Behavior Tech, GCSN
Ana Romero, Behavior Tech, GCSN
Tondonlya Orr, Clinical Trainer, BBHU
Courtney Kleingardner, Behavior Specialist, BBHU
Katherine Towle, Behavior Specialist, BBHU
Zipporah Huddleston, Behavior Specialist, BBHU
Mallory Caza, Behavior Tech, BBHU
Winifred Eneye, Behavior Tech, BBHU
Jimmie Hunter, MHTA, BBHU

1 YEAR

Nicole Harvey, MHTA, BBHU
Ika Mobley, MHTA, BBHU
Andrea Stone, MHTA, BBHU
Kheyaire McMullen, MHTA, BBHU
Denia Adams, MHTA, BBHU
Bryan Patterson, MHTA, BBHU

8 YEARS

Mike Koegel, Behavior Specialist, GCSN

**Inpatient:**

Danika Sinclair, MHTA at BBHU

Tianna Berry, MHTA at BBHU

Providers:

Olivia Myers, PA, Upstate Pediatrics

Dr. Laura Mejia-Connolly, PICU Attending

Dr. Myra Batool, Pediatric Pulmonary

Ambulatory:

Patricia Harris, Temp HPSC1, UPAC

April Curtis, Front Desk, Upstate Pediatrics

Sabrina Naylor, Clinical Leader, Peds Hem/Onc

Jennifer Herring, RN, BSN, UPAC

Foundation

Miracle Family Requests - Do you know a charismatic, funny patient eager to share their story? Recommend them for our Miracle Family program! We're seeking new families to represent the Upstate Foundation and UGCH at our 2026 events in the community. Nominations: check with the family & send their contact info: David Bartell at BartellD@upstate.edu.

Donor Dollars at Work Submissions Requested - Do you have something exciting in your program funded by donors? We want to highlight you! Send photos and impact descriptions to David Bartell at BartellD@upstate.edu. If you have a project idea needing funding, talk to your supervisor and watch for the Allocations application opening in September. Details are coming soon!

21st Annual Charity Sports Auction - Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital & Upstate Pediatric and Adolescent Center (UPAC), beneficiaries of Syracuse University Sport Management Club 21st Annual Charity Sport Auction in person and online Nov 18- 23.

The Auction Over the past 20 years, the Charity Sports Auction has raised \$772,929 for charities in Central New York. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the auction uses a hybrid format for the event, with in-person and online bidding available. The in-person event usually takes place in the backcourt of the JMA Wireless Dome during an SU Men's Basketball game. The items consist of sports memorabilia, Syracuse University items, jewelry, gift baskets, and a wide range of items that would be appropriate holiday gifts.

When? In-person: November 18th Syracuse Orange Men's Basketball, Monmouth Hawks at Syracuse Orange
Online: Nov 18th-23rd

Where? JMA Wireless Dome, Online [the SPM Auction | Powered By GiveSmart](#)

Benefitting? This year's Charity Sports Auction will benefit **Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital** and **Upstate Pediatric and Adolescent Center (UPAC)**

Who? [Sport Management Club](#)

Community Impact - With philanthropy being a core principle of the Sport Management Club, past and present members have raised \$772,929 in the past 20 years for various non-profits that benefit the Syracuse community. Your contribution to this year's auction will go towards Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital as they continue their efforts to care for sick and injured children and their families in Central New York for years to come!



Social Media Highlights

- ★ Medical Assistants Recognition Day! [Story here](#).
- ★ Pediatric Nurses Week! [Story here](#).
- ★ Miracle Champion is trotting off for a makeover. [Story here](#).
- ★ GCSN had a special visitor this month! Everyone enjoyed their new "coworker" [Larkin!](#) 🐕
- ★ Peds Trauma - Dr. Wallenstein interview. [Link here](#). (Videos on PDF are only available through link)

Other amazing social media shoutouts from our community:

🎉 Nurses Week:

- "We love all our nurses! From all our specialty nurses to the nurses that take care of Victoria at the peds oncology center for her Crohn's."

🎉 Excellence Awards:

- (to Alana Guidetti): "So happy for you!! Remember when you outsmarted the medical team as a peds student?? I knew that weekend you were going to make an amazing Peds nurse & now leader!! Upstate is lucky to have you."
- Congratulations to all of you! Especially **Bill Melfi!** So proud of all of your hard work!

? What would you like to see on social media? We want to hear it! Tell us what you'd love to see featured on our social media platforms — your ideas could be next! Email Mary Melice at melicem@upstate.edu.

Additional Highlights

Cystic Fibrosis Team at the Savoring the Salt City Event!



Podcasts

[Diaper bank helps families who struggle to afford diapers](#) (by Winter Berry, DO.)

[Teen-parent sex discussion should be ongoing](#) (by Aimee Steiniger, MD)



September Question: How long does it take for the flu shot to become effective?

It typically takes about 2 weeks for the flu shot to become effective because the body needs time to produce antibodies against the influenza viruses included in the vaccine.



October Question: Long before pumpkins were used, what vegetable was originally carved into Jack-o'-lanterns?

Answer will be shared in the next newsletter.



November is National Family Caregivers Month, National Epilepsy Awareness Month, and National Diabetes Month!



Good Things at Golisano!

Please feel free to share some good things that happened this week using this link:
<https://redcap.upstate.edu/surveys/?s=NDTP978CC3J9RCA7>.