

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Announcements

Tree House Lobby Refresh!

Our Tree House Lobby is getting a fresh new look starting May 28th, with renovations expected to wrap up in about a week. During this time, please be aware of changes to the entrance during the construction phase. You may need to enter/exit through the back entrance of the Tree House at times. We appreciate your flexibility as we make exciting improvements!

2026 Pediatric Patient Experience Awards & Linda McAleer Award winners!

Best Attitude

Inpatient: Jaime Ryan, RN (12F)

Outpatient: Katrina Dufresne, RD -
Nutritionist (CDBG)

Best Communicator

Inpatient: Jessica DeMaintenon, RN (11G)

Outpatient: Michele Lamb, RN (CDBG)

Best Problem Solver

Inpatient: Amy Sullivan, RRT - Respiratory
Therapist

Outpatient: Dr. Heather Ross - MD
(McMahon Ryan)

Best Team Player

Inpatient: Shannon Noce, RN -
Case Manager (11E)

Outpatient: Andrea Saya, RN - (3N)

Most Empathetic

Inpatient: Amanda Bane, RN -
Asst Nurse Manager (Float Pool)

Outpatient: Erica Gosh, LMSW - Social Worker
(Cancer Center)

Most Nominated in a Category

Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind - MD, Medical Director
(Upstate Pediatrics)

Most Nominated

Jaimie Boeheim, LMSW - Social Worker
(Outpatient Float)

Linda McAleer Award for Patient Safety

Margaret "Meg" Anderson, Pediatric
Pharmacy Services Coordinator

Congratulations to 11G on their Patient Experience Award! 🏆

Thank you for your outstanding commitment to exceptional patient care!



Doctorate Research Day

The 2026 Beyond the Doctorate Research Day was held April 1st. Pediatrics led all departments with eight residents presenting posters—congratulations to Drs. Baraskar, Bharti, Chaturvedi, Elbizim, Enebeli, Mian, Rehman, and Raji! Our very own Dr. Anandita Bharti was selected as the winner of the poster presentations!! 🎉



Dr. Conners Named SUNY Distinguished Faculty

Three Upstate faculty—Gregory Conners, MD, MPH, MBA; Stewart Loh, PhD, and Sherard Tatum, MD—have been named SUNY Distinguished Faculty by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Gregory Conners serves chair of pediatrics and executive director of the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. In October 2025, he was named as the nation's first B. Thomas Golisano Endowed Professor of Pediatrics. His leadership and service are coupled with a sustained commitment to pediatric medicine at Upstate, regionally, and nationally. [full story here](#)

Strategic Plan Updates

Quarterly Update

Thank you to all that joined our quarterly update meeting last month. If you missed it, you can find the recording here: [Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital Quarterly Update - April 28 2026.mp4](#). We hope you can join us on July 30th at 8am for our next quarterly update.

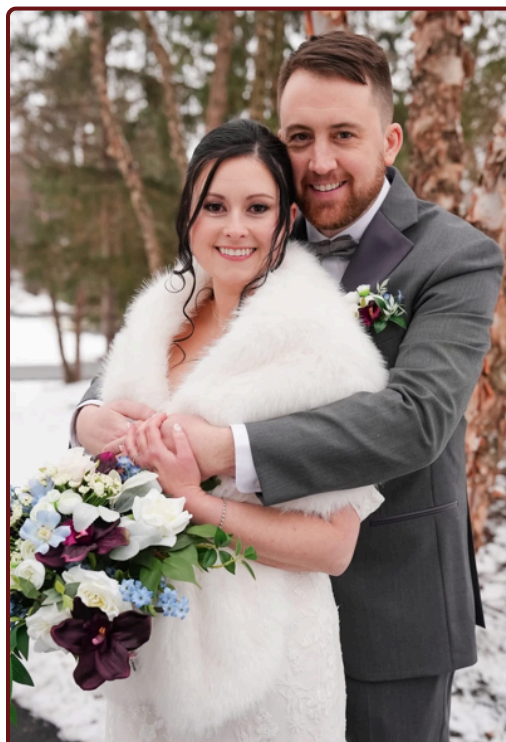
Getting to Know Our UGCH Team

Who am I? Kali Kearns, Associate Administrator at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. My background is in project management, clinic operations, and strategic planning.

What attracted me to this role? I grew up in Central New York and was lucky to be an intern with the Safe Kids Program at the Children's Hospital during my undergraduate studies. I absolutely loved my experience and always knew I wanted to work in pediatrics. Although my path led me to work out of state and on the adult side most of my career, I was excited for the potential to return to the Children's Hospital and to my family, as well as to work with the incredible people here. This role combines all of the skills I have learned in previous roles and gives me an opportunity to help my teams and teams across the organization make a meaningful impact on the patients and families in our region. I am passionate about improving the patient experience and access to care, creating efficient workflows, planning for the future, and supporting my team.

What do I enjoy most about my job? I am grateful to be surrounded by wonderful people who are supportive, collaborative, kind, and want what is best for our patients and families. I could not succeed in my role without our wonderful teams, and I enjoy being able to work with them every day. I also enjoy the opportunity I get in my role to come up with new ideas, to build innovation and growth strategies, to strengthen communication, and to learn from many experts in the field.






Fun fact about me: I was born on Christmas Day! I also just got married in Skaneateles in February.


























Upcoming Events

Child Life Calendar of Events:

May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	26  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	27  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2pm-3:30pm	28 <i>Pet Therapy</i> Between 11am and 1pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	29  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm

June 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	2  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am	3  Sound Bath for Caregivers 12th Floor Solarium 2:00pm	4  Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11am and 1pm	5  Movie on the Big Screen 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm
8  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	9 Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am  Utica Zoomobile 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	10	11 <i>Pet Therapy</i> Short visit in your room Between 11am and 1pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	12  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
15  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	16 Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am  Lego Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	17	18 <i>Pet Therapy</i> Short visit in your room Between 11am and 1pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	19  Happy Juneteenth
22  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	23 Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am  MOST Science Experiments 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	24  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2pm-3:30pm	25 <i>Pet Therapy</i> Short visit in your room Between 11am and 1pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	26  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
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*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.

Memorial Service for Neal Seidberg, MD

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, May 27th, at 5 PM in the Kinney Performance Center for Dr. Neal Seidberg. Neal was a graduate of the Norton School of Medicine here at Upstate. He was also a pediatric resident and Chief resident in the Department of Pediatrics. After completing a fellowship in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, Neal was a member of the Department of Pediatrics since 2003. Faculty and staff are invited to celebrate and share their memories of Dr. Seidberg. After the service, refreshments and snacks will be provided. A memorial fund is being established in honor of Dr. Neal Seidberg. Donations may be made through the Upstate Foundation [here](#).

Patient Advocacy - On The Go - 5/29 from 12pm to 1pm

Patient Advocacy will be coming around to the units to chat about experiences and feedback from families, patients, and staff.

Inpatient Updates

Pediatric Quality & Safety The April newsletter can be found here: [April PQ&S](#).

Upstate Foundation Updates

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 community events. Nominations: check with the family & send their info: Danielle Bright.

Staffing Updates & Announcements

Superhero of the Month ~ Halle Coffey!

UPSTATE
Golisano Children's Hospital

Superhero of the Month

May 2026

Halle is a queen!
She exudes positivity and team spirit. Halle is always looking for opportunities to help her coworkers. You will never see her hiding in her pod. She keeps busy in the unit throughout the shift. Halle has stepped up and is now a preceptor in 12f. I am so proud of her hard work and dedication to learning for herself and her orientee. I am glad Halle continues to push beyond her comfort zone. We are so lucky to have Halle on our team!!!

She is always helping other nurses. She is so positive. I love working with her!

Halle Coffey RN
12F - PICU



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Golisano Children's Hospital

Nominate a Superhero!

Do you have a coworker who represents UGCH PEDS?

Anyone can be nominated both Inpatient and Outpatient!

- Uplifting
- Genuine
- Compassionate
- Hardworking
- Patient/Family Centered
- Empathetic
- Dedicated
- Supportive



WELCOME



Ambulatory:

Child Life:

- Beth Kinsley, CCLS, Pulm Clinic

UPAC:

- Abby Rushford, RN, transfer from 12F

Outpatient Float Pool

- Heather Mcguerty, RN

Peds Pulmonary

- Terrenae Walker, Temp, Front Desk
- Michelle Griffin, Temp, Front Desk

Peds ED:

- Sophia Conners, SCA
- Marylyn Ejike, TN
- Frank Guenthne, SCA
- Heather Howell, RN to Clinical Leader
- Katherine Wilson, RN to Clinical Leader
- Kayla Morales, RN

Inpatient:

11E:

- Bianca Monteleone, HCT
- Kayleen Noble, SCA
- Ava Poirier, SCA,

11G:

- Isabel Gardner, SCA
- Ajla Mujakovic, SCA

12E:

- Katelyn Biggs, SCA
- Grace Guerguerian, TN
- Daniel Robinson, TN
- Addison Trussell, SCA

12F:

- Celisa Barley, SCA
- Amanda Rudolph, RN
- Katherine Sanderson, RN from Peds Support Pool

BBHU:

- Parrish Brice, MHTA
- Abbie Capps, TN
- Olivia Carney, MHTA
- Ismael Cruz, MHTA
- Victor Enyeazu, MHTA
- Priyanka Gorgia, Beh Tech
- Hailey Guynup, MHTA
- Allison Hinkle, MHTA
- Marcus Hubbard, MHTA
- Marrion Kennedy, TN
- Fatoumata Magassa, TN
- Deshia Paulk, TN
- Jolanda Ponce, MHTA
- Sandi Quonce, MHTA
- Michael Robinson, MHTA
- Shawn Smith, MHTA
- Angelic Spight, MHTA
- Orren Trudea, Behavior. Spec

Peds Float Pool:

- Tricia Lashomb, UST
- Shamonica Rivera, UST

Patient & family praises to our staff from Press Ganey surveys!

Inpatient		Outpatient	
Kayla 11G	Kaleigh 12F	Dr. Comito Hem Onc	Cathy Caltibiano Surgery
Allaura 11E	Dr. Wallenstein	Dr. Sveen UPAC	Gina Hem Onc
Jen 12E	Natalie Howse 12F	Dr. Siskind Upstate Peds	Kennedy Hem Onc
Lauren Zettle 11E	Danielle Demarest 12F	Dr. Garg Genetics	Alyssa GI
Robert 11E	Emily LaSalle 12F	Amy Mrowka	Dr. Schurman Nephrology
Morgan 11E	Rebecca McMullen 12F	Kristen Maas Pulmonary	Dr. Sura Rheumatology
Dr. Tran 11E	Maryanne Delaney 12F	Dr. Kaul UPAC	
Dr. Lucas Psych	Sarah Kneaskern 12F	Dr. Sima Hem Onc	
Karolina 12F	Steve J 12F	Jocelyn Hem Onc	
Cam 11E	Randi MacMaster 11E	Stephanie Hem Onc	
Caitlyn 11E	Katherine Sanderson 11E	Dr. Fortner Pulmonary	
Dr. Ahmed	Clare Arezina Wiemann	Dr. Feeney Upstate Peds	
Devon 11E	Child Life	Dr. Hingre	
Dr. Knudson	Kenzie Beyer 12E	Dr. Fakhri UPAC	
Dr. Hussein	Sydney 12E	Dr. Kennedy Hem Onc	
Heather 12F	Dr. Duncan	Athena Reome GI	
Danielle 12F	Demir Food Services	Dr. Okhman Upstate Peds	
Leah 12E	Connor 11E	Dr. Dosa CDBG	
Aida 12E	Clint 11E	Rebecca Hem Onc	
Amaya 12E	Hannah 11E	Dr. Dvorak Hem Onc	
Halle 12F	Alissa 11E	Dr. Baldwin UPAC	
Devon 12F	Allaura 11E	Dr. Kumari	
Dr. Harding	Morgan M 11E	Dr. Oktem Nephrology	
		Dr. Hartman GI	

Perfect Attendance Award! Congratulations Katie Oja on 11E for her Perfect Attendance Award!



Patient and Family Advisory Council

Pediatric Patient Family Advisory Council Seeks Members

Our Pediatric Patient Family Advisory Council is looking for new advisors to join our amazing team! Family Advisors provide input and feedback to help decision making at many levels of Upstate's hospital system. This diverse group of families work with children's hospital staff to promote and enhance patient safety and quality. If you or someone you know is interested, please apply [here](#).

Social Media Highlights

Interested in being featured on our social media? If you have something interesting you think the community would love to see, we'd love to interview you! Email melicem@upstate.edu.

[Some](#) of our incredible stories on our social media platforms!

- [#GoBlue4Kids](#)



- [BaxterTHON!](#) Binghamton University raises over \$200k! [Upstate story](#)
- [Happy Administrative Professionals Day! Check out this awesome video from some of our staff at our outpatient clinics](#)
- [Nurses Week! Nurses Week! More Nurses Week!](#)
- [Star Wars Visit!](#)
- [National Teacher Appreciation Day](#)
- [World Autoimmune Arthritis Day](#) - Check out this fun video!
- [PEA and Linda McAleer Award Ceremony!](#)



Additional Highlights

Our Peds Patient Experience Champions! 🏆

Samantha Halverson, 12E

Karen MacVittie, 12E

Kristina Perry, 12E

Kayla Farmer, 12E

Beth Corrice, 12E

Rosie Feller, 12E

Amanda Valentine, 12E

GCSN/BBHU participates in Advocates, Inc 5k

A group from GCSN and BBHU took part in the Advocates, Inc. 5K! Advocates supports individuals with developmental disabilities in living independently and engaging in their communities. It was a beautiful day for a great cause! (Kelly Morrison, Brittany Mauzy, Meara McMahon, Leondra Taylor, and Maysarah Mohamed)



Podcasts

- [Child life specialists help kids undergoing treatment](#)

In the News

- **Lou Pellegrino, MD**, was featured in the In Good Health newspaper story: Autism and ADHD <https://www.cnyhealth.com/autism-and-adhd/>
- **Christopher Lucas, MD, and Lou Pellegrino, MD**, are featured in the In Good Health newspaper story: Is Autism Preventable? [Is Autism Preventable? – In Good Health – Central New York's Healthcare Newspaper](#)



April Question: The name “April” comes from a Latin word meaning what?

Answer: To open (referring to flowers opening)



May Question: What is the only bone in the human body that is not connected to any other bone?

Answer will be shared in the next newsletter.



June is National Safety Month, Pride Month, National Employee Wellness Month, PTSD Awareness Month, and Migraine and Headache Awareness Month

**** Have a great idea to highlight one of these? Let us know!**



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>.

