

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Announcements

Upstate Golisano Apparel Sale! Open until June 30th!

Upstate Golisano Apparel Sale!



[Click for Store](#)
(lots of colors and styles!)



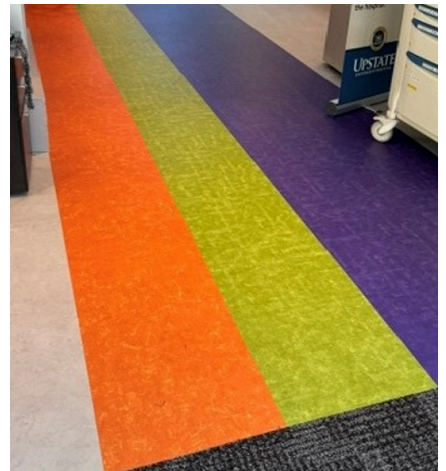
Store is open until June 30th!
T-shirts will be mailed to you directly at the end of the sale




UGCH Renovations

The newly renovated Tree House Lobby is now complete, with a bright, refreshed look! Thank you to everyone who helped make this space possible.

Next, we'll begin renovations to the Family Lounge areas and Family Sleep Rooms on the 11th and 12th floors, with work expected to start soon.



Upstate Golisano's 17th Birthday Celebration!

We're getting started on planning our 17th Birthday celebration the week of September 21st!

🎉 Want to be part of it? Email Mary Melice at melicem@upstate.edu—we'd love to have you on the team!




What's Happening With Social Admissions?

From Dr. Greg Conners:


Upstate welcomed Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), to campus in March, 2026. Dr. Sullivan's visit highlighted the challenges of children who are left off at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital (UGCH). She called for action at a large meeting convened by President Dewan, including leaders from Upstate / UGCH, New York state agencies, Onondaga county social services, and community charitable partners. At Dr. Dewan's direction, I have led a series of follow-up meetings, adding additional state agencies, elected officials, and more community partners. Together, we have investigated the roots of the problem and how to address them, and how to support children and families to prevent the crises that cause families to leave their children at UGCH. All are committed to preventing having children left off at Upstate and to rapidly and safely moving children to more appropriate settings when it does occur. It is encouraging to see this diverse group work together to figure out how to fill gaps into which these children sometimes fall.

This process is taking time due to its complexity. I have been asked if we will give up when the next priority comes along; the answer is no. This is a challenge at children's hospitals across our state and in many other states. I am confident that our collaborative approach will help children and families in Central New York and provide a model for others.


Shoutouts & Celebrations!

 *Superhero of the Month*
June 2026

John is a hardworking, genuine member of the IMT staff. He has been dedicated and supportive of all the initiatives of the children's hospital and goes above and beyond to ensure the project will be successful. In his recent work with the new sepsis OPA, John's expertise and thoughtfulness led to an intuitive, easy to use OPA. John is a very valuable member of the UGCH team!



John Rydzeki
IMT



 *Nominate a Superhero!*

Do you have a coworker who represents UGCH PEDS?

Uplifting
Genuine
Compassionate
Hardworking
Patient/Family Centered
Empathetic
Dedicated
Supportive



Anyone can be nominated both Inpatient and Outpatient!



Scan QR
code or
[click here](#)
to vote!

Patient Experience Champion!

Congratulations to **Darlene Ely** at the Peds Cancer Center for being nominated as a Patient Experience Champion by her peers. Thank you for all you do for our patients and families!



Dr. Conners Named SUNY Distinguished Faculty

Gregory Conners, MD, MPH, MBA, was one of only three faculty members to receive SUNY's highest academic title of SUNY Distinguished Faculty. Dr. Conners was appointed SUNY Distinguished Service Professor which is given to faculty who "have achieved recognition of their career-long commitment to extraordinary service and broad societal reach." He'll be honored at the Upstate Convocation **on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m.** in Weiskotten Hall. The campus community is invited to attend. [More details.](#)

DAISY Awards!

Congratulations **Nadia Stokes**, Peds Specialty Float RN, and **Justin Barr**, Travel RN on 11E!



House Officer Research Award!

The Department of Pediatrics attended the Annual PAS meetings in Boston in April. Congratulations to Dr. Deniz Elbizim for winning the House Officer Research Award by the Society for Pediatric Research with her abstract entitled "The Role of DIP2A in Brain Development and Hydrocephalus: Insights from Xenopus Models," based on her research at Yale University! Congratulations!



Scott Carter Awardees - 2025

Rebecca Walker from Peds Hem Onc and Kylah McGarry from 11G were the 2025 winners of the Scott Carter Award. This award is a tribute to Scott Carter who was a member of our pediatric hematology/oncology nursing team who died unexpectedly on January 1, 1999. This award is presented to our nurses who best demonstrate the qualities exemplified by Scott: compassionate concern for the welfare of children, excellence in the technical aspects of nursing, and the ability to touch others with an infectious joy of life.



GME Awards Ceremony Winners!

Dr. Ibrahim Habib was the winner of the 2026 GME Resident/Fellow Award for Professionalism, and Dr. Anandita Bharti also received an award for being the #1 poster at this year's Beyond the Doctorate Research Day! (pictured with Dr. Ajagbe)





Alissa Rinn, RN at the Peds Pulmonary Clinic received her Asthma Educator Certification! Congratulations! 🎉

Employee Recognition Luncheon

From 5–25 years of service- Our peds team celebrating milestone anniversaries & the lasting impact of our staff.



🎉 Cheers to 🎉
RETIREMENT!

Dr. Robert Hingre of Pediatric Pulmonary has retired!

The Pulmonary team recently gathered to celebrate this milestone. Thank you, Dr. Hingre, for your many contributions.



Celebrating Anne Galloway's Retirement & CARE Clinic Transition

Anne has been with Upstate and the CARE program for her entire 27-year career. The program moved to the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center in 2011, where she has been for the past 15 years. Anne has been a wealth of knowledge and experience in her role as the CARE program manager. We are thankful she will be returning prn at the end of the summer to work on some special projects.

Cathy Narcavage-Bradley has accepted the position of CARE program manager and will bring her own wealth of knowledge and experience with her. We are excited for the next chapters for Anne and Cathy.

Strategic Plan Updates

Quarterly Update

Thank you to all who joined our quarterly update meeting April 28th. 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 8:00 am** for our next quarterly update. [TEAMS LINK](#)

Getting to Know Our UGCH Team

Who am I? Brenda Dano, Deputy Director of Nursing for Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital

What attracted me to this role? What attracted me to this job was the opportunity to return to my inpatient roots after 27.5 years in Public Health. Jobs like mine don't come up very often and during COVID, a random alert on LinkedIn brought me this opportunity. It wasn't an easy decision to leave a job I'd been at for so long but was definitely the best decision ever!

What do I enjoy most about my job? What I enjoy the most is working with our incredible team of professionals. I'm very proud of the amazing work we do every day, and every member of the care team has a role in that.

Fun fact about me: I have the same birthday as my husband and daughter!






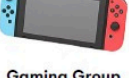


















Upcoming Events

Child Life Calendar of Events:


June 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
22 Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:50pm	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-5:30pm	25 Pet Therapy 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
29 Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:50pm	30 Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am	1 Sound Bath for Caregivers 12th Floor Solarium 2:00pm	2 Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11am and 1pm	3 Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm

July 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	30  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am	1  Sound Bath for Caregivers 12th Floor Solarium 2:00pm	2	3  Movie on the Big Screen 11th Floor Performance Center 1:00pm
6  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	7  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am	8	9 Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11am and 1pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	10  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
13  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	14 Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am  Utica Zoomobile 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	15	16 Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11am and 1pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm-3:30pm	17  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
20  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	21  Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am	22  Coffee House Karaoke 12th Floor Family Resource Center 12:30pm	23 Pet Therapy Short visit in your room Between 11am and 1pm  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm-3:30pm	24  Music Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm
27  Family Lunch 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:45am-12:30pm	28 Gaming Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 11:00am  MOST Science Experiments 11th Floor Performance Center 2:00pm	29  BINGO 11th Floor Performance Center 2pm-3:30pm	30  Art Group 12th Floor Family Resource Center 2:00pm	31  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.**

Lemonade Chat with Patient Advocacy July 17th



lemonade
ON THE GO WITH
PATIENT ADVOCACY

Patient Advocacy is coming around to you to chat about experiences and feedback about your stay at the Children's Hospital

July 17th 12-1pm

Run for Refuge 5k Walk/Run Sat, 7/25 (register by 6/25!)



RUN FOR REFUGE 5K RUN & WALK

Join Team Upstate as we support **DAVID'S REFUGE**

EVENT DATE: Saturday, July 25
LOCATION: Marcellus Park
 2443 Platt Rd
 Marcellus NY, 13108
TIME: 8-11 AM Run or Walk
 9:30-11AM Kids Fun Run

TEAM UPSTATE
Your Cause

This event is open to Upstate employees, friends, and family to support parents and caregivers of children with special needs or life-threatening medical conditions with rest, wellness, and community support.

**ADULT REGISTRATION IS \$38.10
 KIDS ARE FREE**

To register for the event or for information on volunteering, scan the QR code

Register by JUNE 25 and receive a link for your free shirt.

TEAM UPSTATE

QUESTIONS?
 Please contact Bronte Hilgenberg, HilgenbB@upstate.edu

Inpatient Updates

Pediatric Quality & Safety The May newsletter can be found here: [May 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.

Classic car show event to benefit Upstate Golisano

The 3 Rivers Cruz-In classic car show takes place Wednesday evenings beginning at 4 p.m. now through September at Three Rivers Point, 8871 Gaskin Road, Clay. The event is free and features food vendors and a live DJ. The family-friendly event is in its 11th year. Questions? Email Cassandra Rucker at RuckerC@Upstate.edu.

Golf tournament for Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital is July 26

Area fire and police agencies will host a golf tournament and banquet Sunday, July 26 in support of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital and the Upstate Foundation. The event is \$100 per person and will be held at Orchard Vali Golf Club and The View. For more information, email Cassandra Rucker at RuckerC@Upstate.edu.

Upstate Foundation celebrates 50 years: 1976-1985 highlights

1985: Foundation tops \$1 million in annual giving for the first time. This remarkable achievement was viewed as "the living, growing expression of the love Central New Yorkers have for their community and their hopes for its future. The Foundation is the vehicle that enables individuals to show appreciation for the special services provided by the Health Science Center and its talented, caring staff."

1986: Support for operating room technology provided

1987: George Reed, MD, Endowed Professorship in Otolaryngology established

1987: Academic enrichment funds established

1988: Multidisciplinary laser program launched

The Upstate Foundation thanks you for being a vital part of this important milestone. For all highlights, visit www.UpstateFoundation.org/50th.

Welcome to the Team!



Peds ED:

Jesse Johnson-Clark, LPN
KeShira Murry, HCT (from Peds Float)

Ambulatory:

GCSN:

Shariq Khan, Research Scientist

Upstate Peds:

Nicole Aboagye, TN

Peds Hem Onc:

Briana Farewell, Front Desk

Inpatient:

11E:

Carha Williams, RN
Katelyn Biggs, SCA
Addison Trussell, SCA

11G

Cassandra Williams, RN

12E:

Monica Rein, SCA

12E:

Will Walsh, RN
Cella Wood, SCA
Delaney Steele, SCA

BBHU:

Trevor Bracy, MHTA
Jameelah Hill, MHTA
Quentaisha Oliver, MHTA
Kela Wylie, MHTA
Michael Clark, Beh Specialist
Deven Dinet, RN
Amanda Murphy, TN
Peds Float Pool:
Diamond Conerly, travel UST
Angela Dellavella, SCA
Chikara Ryan, HCT

Peds Support Pool:

Gabrielle Miller, RN

3NOR:

James McInerney, ORT

Chief Residents:

Dr. Andrew Dickson
Dr. Florina Grigore

Pediatric Residency Interns (Class of '29!)

Dr. Abisola Bolarinwa
Dr. Coralee Everett
Dr. Alondra Holland
Dr. Rimsha Khan
Dr. Bann Khraisat
Dr. Emma Lamison
Dr. Kelsey Maharaj
Dr. Muhammad Nasir Bin
Dr. Nhan Nguyen
Dr. Dooshima Orti
Dr. Aanchal Pahwa
Dr. Anam Rafique
Dr. Stuti Trivedi
Dr. Nimra Zahid
Dr. FNU Zainullah

Chief Residents

Drs. Andrew Dickson



Dr. Florina Grigore



SUNY Upstate Pediatric Residency Program Class of 2029

 Abisola Bolarinwa Univ. of Ibadan	 Coralee Everett SUNY Upstate	 Alondra Holland SUNY Upstate	 Rimsha Khan Aga Khan University	 Bann Khraisat University of Jordan
 Emma Lamison Touro COM	 Kelsey Maharaj Univ. of West Indies	 Muhammad Bin Nasir Aga Khan University	 Nguyen Nhan University of Debrecen	 Dooshima Orti Bowen University
 Aanchal Pahwa Government Med. College Rawalpindi	 Anam Rafique Med. College	 Stuti Trivedi Government Med. College	 Nimra Zahid Allama Iqbal Med. College	 Zainullah Quetta Institute

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 works 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!

- [Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon](#)
- [PTSD Awareness Month - Interview with Dr. Kathryn Hagen](#)
- [Dreamnight at Rosamond Gifford Zoo](#) / [More photos of all the fun](#)
- [Safe Kids - @ Syracuse Mets](#)
- [CPR & AED Awareness Week](#)

Additional Highlights

Upstate Peds and UPAC celebrating National Pink Day!

Tickled PINK to work with these incredible teams!



Podcasts

Priyanka Kaul, MD: Recess is important to schoolkids' development, experts advise



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

Answer: The hyoid bone



June Question: How many bones are in the human body at birth compared to adulthood?

Answer will be shared in the next newsletter.



July is Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month, UV Safety Awareness Month, and Make a Difference to Children 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>.

