UPSTATE FOUNDATION

Endowment Update

Providing permanent support for research, education and patient care.

Welcome to the 2023 edition of Endowment Update, the Upstate Foundation's annual newsletter highlighting the vital impact of endowments on the work and mission of Upstate Medical University. These funds honor the legacies of respected physicians and researchers, as well as beloved family members. Many of these endowments are long-established – the King endowment is marking 34 years – while the Paige Yeomans Arnold Professorship is in its second year. They cover an array of research areas, from cancer to pediatrics and neurosurgery. There are many ways to establish and build an endowment. To learn more, visit our website or contact us directly. Please read on for updates on the exciting research funded through these endowments!

– Eileen Pezzi, MPA, vice president for development, Upstate Medical University

CELEBRATING 34 YEARS

Robert B. and Molly G. King Endowed Professorship in Neurosurgery

Dr. Robert B. King was an internationally recognized leader in American neurosurgery and neurosurgical graduate education. He imbued his students with a dedication to patient care and commitment to research. He served as chair of the Neurosurgery Department from 1966 to 1988. He was also the first medical director of Upstate University Hospital. He was president of several national medical associations. Dr. King died in 2008 with his wife of 57 years, Molly, by his side. Mrs. King continues to support the work of the Upstate Foundation.

The Robert B. and Molly G. King Endowment supports the work of Dr. Lawrence Chin, who collaborates with Dr. Li-Ru Zhao on the study of stem cell growth factors in traumatic brain injury. This work, entitled "Stem cell factor and granulocyte colony-stimulating factor promote remyelination in the chronic phase of severe traumatic brain injury," was published in July 2023 in the journal Cells. In addition to his laboratory collaborations, Dr. Chin was part of an international team of neurosurgeons that evaluated their results from the surgical treatment of a benign tumor called meningioma at the base of the skull. Two articles using this data were published in the journal Neurosurgery this past July. The first paper discussed the outcome after two different types of approaches, one using a traditional open surgical approach where the skull is opened and the second using a minimally invasive endoscopic approach. The second paper proposed a preoperative grading scale to help predict outcomes from either of these two approaches.

In addition to his work in neurosurgery, Dr. Chin continues to serve as the dean of the Norton College of Medicine, which was the first co-ed medical school in the US. At present, the school educates over 700 medical students and 700 residents and fellows at two campuses and numerous hospitals and other clinical partners. It includes a School of Public Health, and its faculty also comprise the College of Graduate Studies.

Lawrence S. Chin, MD, FACS

MARKING 2 YEARS

Paige Yeomans Arnold Endowed Professorship in Pediatric Oncology

To mark the 25th anniversary of Paige's Butterfly Run, this endowed professorship was established, primarily with event proceeds. The run is an enduring tribute to **Paige Yeomans Arnold**, who succumbed to leukemia at the age of 8. It is organized by her parents, Chris Arnold and Ellen Yeomans, with assistance from the Upstate Foundation. While over the years funds have helped with many short-term priorities, the endowed professorship was a long-term goal for the family.

Dr. Melanie Comito, the first Paige Yeomans Arnold endowed professor, has been chief of the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology division at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital since 2016. Her academic interests are in the management of children with pediatric brain and spinal cord tumors. Under her leadership, the mission has been expanded to treat all

***PAIGE** continued on back page*

"Building a strong base of faculty talent enriches the academic environment, which attracts the brightest students. Endowed professorships support faculty already performing at a high level, enabling them to make even more significant contributions to the institution as well as their respective fields."

– Mantosh Dewan, MD, president of Upstate Medical University

CELEBRATING 3 YEARS

Phillip Capozzi, MD, Endowed Professorship in Urology

Phillip Capozzi left a successful real estate career for medicine and was accepted at New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY, at the age of 39. He has been an anesthesiologist in Syracuse for more than 20 years. He established this endowed professorship as a patient, though, grateful for the care he received at Upstate.

The Phillip Capozzi, MD, Endowed Professorship in Urology is held by Gennady Bratslavsky, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Urology. Dr. Bratslavsky, above left, was also Dr. Capozzi's surgeon, performing a radical prostatectomy and extended lymph node dissection a few years ago.

According to Dr. Bratslavsky, "The endowment by Dr. Phillip Capozzi was created through his gratitude for the care he received at Upstate University Hospital after being diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer. Using every resource possible, including modern surgery, postoperative imaging, genetic testing and treatment by a multidisciplinary team, we are thrilled to see Dr. Capozzi doing well, now without any sign of residual disease, and off every treatment modality.

"His endowment will help allow improvements in diagnostics and treatment of prostate cancer as well as prostate cancer research.

"Ongoing progress in care for prostate cancer patients has allowed Upstate Urology to be recognized as having one of the top performing prostate cancer programs as well as being one of the top performing urology departments in the United States. Endowments created by generous donors like Dr. Phillip Capozzi allow many of us to carry the mission of high-quality research and care that we are so proud to provide in the Department of Urology.

"In addition to having an outstanding standard of care, the Department of Urology is one of the world leaders in clinical trials for many genitourinary cancers, with many patients with either localized or metastatic prostate cancer benefiting from having access to the most modern treatment strategies. Generous donors like Dr. Capozzi are important in helping to recognize physicians at Upstate who provide world-class care to our patients."

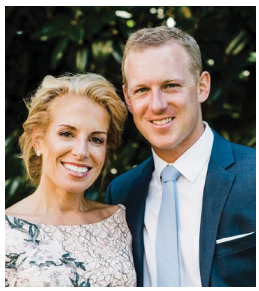
CELEBRATING 18 YEARS

Michael E. Connolly Endowed Professorship in Lung Cancer Research

Michael E. Connolly

Binghamton native Michael Connolly, a nonsmoker, died of lung cancer in 2002 at the age of 39. He was a husband and father, volunteer coach and a star Binghamton North High School football and baseball player. His wife Penny and son Ryan created a research endowment and in 2020, with an infusion of funding from the Upstate Foundation and Upstate Medical University Department of Surgery, the Michael E. Connolly Endowed Professorship in Lung Cancer Research was established.

The first grant from the original Michael E. Connolly Endowment for Lung Cancer Research was awarded in March 2008. Since then, the endowment has funded eight pilot research studies in the quest for a cure for lung cancer, the nation's leading cause of cancer death.



Penny and Ryan Connolly

"Upstate has an outstanding multidisciplinary clinical program in lung cancer that includes Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Thoracic Surgical Oncology," said Robert Cooney, MD, professor and chair, Department of Surgery. "Multiple initiatives are currently in progress to recruit a 'top notch' researcher to work with our clinicians doing translational lung cancer research, high impact research that will hopefully change and improve the way we care for these patients."

Dr. Cooney went on to note that it is very important to find the right person to fill the position of Connolly Endowed Professor in Lung Cancer Research. It is anticipated that once a few other positions are filled with high quality candidates, including Upstate chief of Medical Oncology, the strength of the department will facilitate recruitment for the professorship and help attract the best candidate.

Additionally, the decision was made to wait for the Connolly endowment and department reserves to recover from last year's downturn in the financial markets to be able to offer a more competitive package to a candidate. This has largely occurred.

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS

John A. Hoepner, MD, Endowed Professorship in Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (formerly Vision 2000 Endowment)

Dr. John A. Hoepner began his esteemed career at Upstate in 1973 and was appointed department chair 11 years later. In 1997, Dr. Hoepner co-founded Upstate's Center for Vision Research which is now an internationally recognized research program. The Hoepner endowed professorship was the result of more than two decades of collaboration between the Upstate Foundation and the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, beginning with a successful $1 million campaign called Vision 2000 and enhanced by support from the local Lions Club District 20-Y1 and patients expressing their gratitude for Dr. Hoepner's care.

The **John A. Hoepner, MD, Endowed Professorship in Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences** was established at the Upstate Foundation and Peter D. Calvert, PhD, was announced as the inaugural recipient of the chair in 2022. Professor Calvert studies the movement of single molecules in living cells to understand the mechanisms of blinding diseases that disable photoreceptors. His work is currently supported by multiple NIH research grants. His papers are published in the leading journals in the field.

Peter D. Calvert, PhD

William Brunken, PhD, director of the Center for Vision Research (CVR), applauded Calvert's appointment, noting, "I can think of no better researcher to carry on the legacy of Dr. Hoepner and continue the prolific work conducted at the center than Professor Calvert."

Dr. Brunken further reported on CVR activities:

The post-pandemic period has been a very busy time for the Center for Vision Research and in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (OVS) at Upstate Medical University. Clinical and research faculty in the department published 38 papers since September 2022, many of which were major advances in our understanding of retinal vascular development and pathobiology; the molecular basis of photoreceptor degeneration and blindness; and biomechanics of glaucoma.

Our research portfolio continues to expand. Dramatically, we are on track to receive more than $4.5 million in extramural research funding this year. Significant accomplishments include an award for Innovation in Ophthalmology from the E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind presented to Dr. William Spencer, as well as a Career Development Award from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB). RPB is a major private philanthropy organization funding vision research in American universities.

Pictured from left to right: SUNY RF's Director of New Ventures Nicholas Querques; DUB Biologics co-founders, Upstate Medical University's Research Associate Tere Williams and Professor Audrey Bernstein; SUNY's Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development Shadi Sandvik; and SUNY's Vice President for Industry and External Affairs Matthew Mroz.

In another major milestone, Professor Audrey Bernstein's studies on innovations in treatments for corneal wound healing have led to the development of the first biotech startup company formed from research in the OVS Department. The company, DUB Biologics, took home the first prize at the SUNY Startup Summer School – an annual business accelerator program. The unrestricted cash award will help bring DUB's small molecule therapeutic to market. DUB's approach is to block specific protein production in the cornea inhibiting inflammation and reducing scarring. Corneal scarring is a major cause of vision impairment worldwide. Unlike current treatments, DUB's siRNA is a single dose treatment that is effective for several months.

With support from the Upstate Foundation and the University, expansion of our faculty continued. Dr. Darwin Babino will continue his work using artificial intelligence to model visual processing in the retina at Upstate where he will be using AI and machine algorithms to model retinal processing, and then use these algorithms to test the efficacy of vision restoration technologies. Dr. Levi Todd is joining the OVS faculty, and is an expert in retinal development and the use of single cell genomics to understand the mechanisms of development.

Darwin Babino, PhD

The Center for Vision Research celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2022 with a major symposium which can be viewed online for those who were unable to attend.

The CVR website (www. upstate.edu/cvr) continues to be an expansive source of information and updates including our most recent papers and results. In addition to engaging in groundbreaking biomedical research, the CVR and its portfolio of federal and philanthropic grants have a major economic impact in Central New York. The center and its staff, thanks in part to support from Upstate Foundation funds, including the Hoepner Professorship, remains Upstate Strong and contributes significantly to the health of the community.

CELEBRATING 27 YEARS

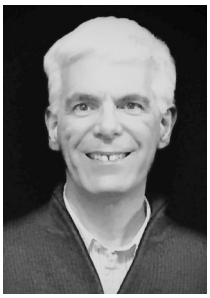
E. Robert Heitzman, MD, Endowed Professorship in Radiology Research

E. Robert Heitzman, Jr., MD, was a dedicated teacher and inspiring mentor to those who knew him and learned from him during his 40-plus years on Upstate's medical faculty. He impressed upon students a commitment to the art of careful study, analysis and inquiry, leading them to form opinions based purely on evidence. His lifetime of significant accomplishments was honored with the establishment of this endowed professorship.

The Department of Radiology is home to state-of-the-art CT scanners that are dedicated to clinical service. All patients who have CT examinations of the chest have scans that include high-resolution images. In most cases the image (slice) thickness is less than one millimeter. All chest CT scans are made during breath-holding, to eliminate motion due to respiration. Some chest scans are also obtained using cardiac gating, which eliminates motion blurring in the lung adjacent to the beating heart.

Every chest CT scan is acquired as a seamless volume of data. Because the CT slices are so thin, the spatial resolution of the images in the scanning plane (in-plane resolution) is almost the same as the spatial resolution in the perpendicular direction (through-plane resolution). With previous generations of scanners, the through-plane resolution was always worse than the in-plane resolution. So, our scanners produce images having in-plane resolution that is essentially the same as through-plane. This capability makes it possible to examine the volume of CT data in any direction without loss of spatial resolution.

Radiologists typically interpret CT scans, including chest CT scans, in a two-dimensional format. However, because we have motion-free, high-resolution volumes, images now can be displayed with high fidelity in three dimensions. This process is known as 3D rendering. 3D rendering has become common in radiologic practice for visualizing the anatomy and pathology of a variety of larger structures such as blood vessels. On the other hand, we are just beginning to use 3D rendering to explore the anatomy of the lungs.

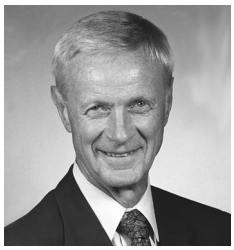


Ernest Scalzetti, MD

Dr. Ernest Scalzetti is bringing this technological advance to bear on educational applications first of all. Radiology residents can come to an understanding of the spatial organization of the lung, by means of 3D rendering, in ways that previously were impossible. Ultimately, research applications could grow out of this technology to impact the clinical practice of radiology. The intention is to build on Dr. Heitzman's pioneering work in radiologic-pathologic correlation – defining the imaging appearance of normal lung anatomy, and the appearance of anatomy as impacted by disease.

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS

David G. Murray, MD, Endowed Professorship in Orthopedic Surgery



Dr. David G. Murray pioneered the development of total knee replacement, the technique that revolutionized the course of treatment for arthritis victims. Now retired, Dr. Murray was named the first chairman of Orthopedic Surgery at Upstate Medical University in 1966. A gifted clinician, teacher and physician-scientist, Dr. Murray's accomplishments included research on knee joints, prostheses and arthroplasty which attracted significant grant support. He earned the Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Academic Surgery, among numerous national honors.

Timothy A. Damron, MD

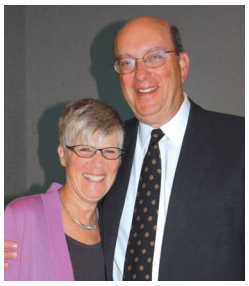
The **David G. Murray, MD, Endowed Professorship in Orthopedic Surgery** supports research related to musculoskeletal cancer in the Musculoskeletal Science Research Center at the Institute for Human Performance, as well as intra-institutional and multi-institutional collaboration. Research is focused on three primary areas: (1) effects of radiotherapy on bone fragility in adult and pediatric patients with cancer; (2) fracture risk prediction and surgical treatment in cancer patients with spread to bone; and (3) treatment of pediatric bone sarcomas, including osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma.

Currently, four faculty members collaborate on active NIH grants from the National Cancer Institute or the National Institutes of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS). These include Timothy A. Damron, MD; Jason A. Horton, PhD; Kenneth A. Mann, PhD; and Megan E. Oest, PhD. In related work, grants obtained in part due to support from the Murray Endowment include those from the Carol Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation, Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation, the Page Foundation, and the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society.

Also, through the endowment and related research, three research fellows have completed post-doctoral study, and one master's and five doctoral candidates have successfully defended their theses. Since the establishment of the Murray Endowment, laboratory members have produced nearly 100 peer-reviewed publications and participated in over 100 presentations at national and international meetings.

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS

The Dr. Michael & Rissa Ratner Endowed Professorship in Pediatric Surgery



The Dr. Michael & Rissa Ratner Endowed Professorship in Pediatric Surgery honors the Ratners for their outstanding service to Upstate Medical University and the Central New York community. Both devoted their careers to children, Michael as a distinguished Upstate pediatric surgeon, and Rissa as a teacher in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District. Dr. Ratner practiced in Syracuse for more than 40 years and served as chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at Upstate.

Andreas H. Meier, MD, MEd

Dr. Andreas Meier, the first Ratner Endowed Professor, has been chief of the pediatric surgery division and the surgeon-in-chief of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital since 2012. In addition, he serves as medical director of the Olivia Louise Pietrafesa Center for Children's Surgery, director of the General Surgery residency program and vice chair for education in the Department of Surgery. His academic interest focuses on surgical education and he is involved in a variety of multi-institutional educational research projects. He is co-principal investigator of a national study to establish learning curves for surgical residents, a project that received a $150,000 grant from the National Board of Medical Examiners Stemmler Fund. He is a member of the Academy of Upstate Educators and participates in the "Build Excellent Skills for Teaching" program, a campus-wide faculty development curriculum that is now mandatory for all incoming faculty members.

The Division of Pediatric Surgery provides tertiary care for children with surgical problems in the Upstate region. The American College of Surgery accredited Pediatric Level 1 trauma center is currently the largest pediatric trauma center in the state of New York.

Pediatric surgeon Dr. Kim Wallenstein is the medical director for the pediatric trauma program. Under her leadership the trauma program was recertified in July 2021. She is also engaged in the curriculum and admission committees of the College of Medicine. She represents the program at the regional and the state level, and nationally she is involved in committees for the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA).

Dr. Tamer Ahmed, also a member of the division since 2010, serves as the Upstate liaison surgeon for the Children's Oncology Group, the national organization overseeing cancer care for children. He is involved in the care of all children that require surgical care for cancer at Upstate. In addition, he is engaged with committee work at APSA.

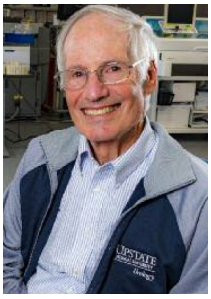
As director of pediatric surgical quality for the children's hospital, Dr. Jennifer Stanger oversees the Pediatric National Surgical Quality Improvement Program and leads the Performance Improvement and Patient Safety Committee. She plays a major role in the hospital's efforts to become an accredited Level I Center of Pediatric Surgery Excellence, a program recently developed by APSA and the American College of Surgeons. The program focuses on optimizing the quality of care and safety for children requiring surgical interventions. New Program Manager Kristen Conolly is working in collaboration with Dr. Stanger on this accreditation.

Dr. Michaela Kollisch-Singule joined the department in October 2020 as the fifth pediatric surgeon. She has established herself as an excellent clinician and has brought new surgical techniques to Upstate. She also spends a significant amount of her time on basic science research. Her projects involve the study of sepsis and neonatal diseases resulting in sepsis as well as treatment strategies. Her specific interest lies in exploring the role of the microbiome and exosomal miRNA signaling in disease propagation. During her fairly brief time with Upstate she has already published and submitted multiple manuscripts, and is actively pursuing external grant funding.

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS

David B. Jones / Robert F. Rohner Endowed Professorship in Pathology

Dr. David B. Jones was a pioneer in electron microscopy, an international expert in kidney pathology and author of over 90 articles for professional journals. He founded the cytotechnology program in the College of Health Related Professions. In 1988 he was named New York State Distinguished Pathologist of the Year. **Dr. Robert F. Rohner** taught human pathology at Upstate Medical University for more than 40 years, and always did it with panache. He is remembered for his passion for the medical profession and his energetic and humorous teaching style.



Jeffery S. Ross, MD

As the first Jones-Rohner endowed professor, Dr. Jeffrey Ross has continued his work in pathology education, the molecular tumor board, continuing patient consultations and clinical cancer research. When the Upstate Medical University Class of 2026 returned from summer break, Dr. Ross greeted them with their first four lectures in basic pathology. His continuing research work focuses on matching the genomic alterations in the malignant tumors of cancer patients to the latest approved targeted therapies and immunotherapies, as well as guiding patients to potential mechanism-based clinical trials that have potential to improve their survival and overall clinical outcome. The recent development of new anti-cancer drugs has fueled this type of approach for cancer patients, especially for those patients with clinically advanced disease. A major advance in the genomic sequencing for cancer patients has been the growth and development of "liquid biopsies" enabling the testing to be done on a blood sample rather than an actual portion of their tumor obtained by biopsy or surgical resection. In addition, molecular methods are beginning to be used to monitor solid tumors similar to the way hematolymphoid malignancies are monitored.

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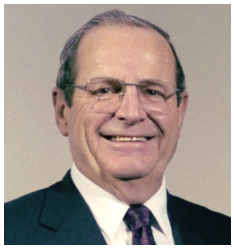
CELEBRATING 24 YEARS

John Bernard Henry, MD, Endowed Professorship in Experimental Pathology



John Bernard Henry, MD, is best known for editing seven editions of a textbook used by physicians and medical technologists worldwide. Dr. Henry served in many roles at Upstate Medical University and in 1971, he organized the College of Health Related Professions and became its first dean. His time as the institution's fourth president from 1985 to 1992 was marked by significant growth in campus facilities and programs.

The **John Bernard Henry, MD, Endowment** was established in 1998 to enhance research in the Department of Pathology to faculty who are committed to investigative activities. Several research studies are underway, with researchers providing the following updates.

Robert J. Corona, DO

Title of Project: Improving Patient Tests Quality

Principal Investigator: Zhimin Tim Cao, MD, PhD
Co-Investigator: Matthew Elkins, MD, PhD

We have made tremendous progress on our "Improving Patient Tests Quality" project. Briefly, we analyzed about 900 questionable patient results, characterized them and their root causes, determined rates of occurrence, and traced origins to the various hospital patient care units. We estimated direct costs associated with the errors, implemented remedial actions to reduce the rates of occurrence, and monitored effectiveness of the remediation. Our findings were published at the American Association for Clinical Chemistry conference. The CDC invited us to present our findings to their staff of the Division of Laboratory Systems in September 2023.

Title of Project: Validate "new" antigen in membranous lupus nephritis and correlate with patient's clinical prognosis

Principal Investigator: Liye Suo, MD, PhD

In our database, we have identified 29 patients with membranous lupus nephritis (LMN) since 2017: 18 have pure LMN, and 11 have LMN with active lupus nephritis. We have collaborated with Drs. Cooney and Meng's lab and performed immunohistochemical staining of Exostosin-1 and -2 in all the patients in July 2023. The scoring of all the slides and correlation with patients' clinical prognosis occurred in September 2023.

Title of Project: Characterizing ethnicity differences in the prostate cancer methylome

Principal Investigator: Scott C. Smith, PhD, DABMGG

Prostate cancer risk can be delineated by ethnic descent; we seek to identify potentially protective genomic markers. Since applying for this award and being funded, the agencies set up to share human tumor material were dissolved. I was able to independently secure specimens associated with the ethnic groups anticipated. The last 12 months have primarily been used to collect prostate specimens. Sequencing the DNA from these specimens will be the next phase.

Title of Project: Whole exome sequencing in high grade osteosarcoma

Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniel Zaccarini
Co-Investigators: Drs. Dana Hariri, Steven Sperber, Ratilal Akabari, Cory Broehm, and Michel Nasr

We have performed molecular testing (whole exome sequencing) on two cases of high-grade conventional osteosarcoma in adults. Currently we are working with our bioinformatician so that we can compare the data we have obtained to published whole exome sequencing that has mainly been studied on pediatric osteosarcoma. We are hoping this provides new insights into the molecular aspects of osteosarcoma.

Title of Project: Effects of inhalation of methyl methacrylate particulates – demonstration in lungs using Raman spectroscopy

Principal Investigator: Jerrold L. Abraham, MD
Co-Investigators: Matthew Lesko, BS [MD/PhD program] and Professor Jay Thomas, PhD, Syracuse University Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences

The study of the effects of respirable dust from the workplace regularly focuses on the debilitating and lethal effects of silica particles, which can cause disease ranging from mild to lethal progressive massive fibrosis. Numerous patients who have been involved in the manufacture of globally widely used Corian® and artificial stone countertops (which releases toxic respirable dust) have been severely affected. Corian® is a composite material that contains aluminum trihydroxide and polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), a widely used commercial polymer. Artificial stone typically uses a mixture of PMMA and crystalline silica. Insoluble in water, PMMA has been shown to cause an inflammatory, granulomatous reaction when injected into various animal tissues. However, it has never previously been identified in human tissues. Using Raman spectroscopy, we have identified PMMA in the respirable-sized dust particles from both Corian® and artificial stone grinding. Due to the high background fluorescence signal in the Raman spectroscopy of tissue sections, we are looking at using atomic force microscopy and other analytical techniques going forward.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

John K., MD, and Mitzi Wolf Endowment for Neurological Education

"This fund can provide both science and humanity to a busy learning world," said **Dr. John K. Wolf** upon the creation of this endowment. The fund continues Dr. Wolf's legacy of more than 30 years at Upstate as an enthusiastic medical educator and compassionate physician. Dr. Wolf was recognized for his high quality, innovative and effective patient care with a particular interest and expertise in multiple sclerosis diagnosis and treatment.

The **John K., MD, and Mitzi Wolf Endowment for Neurological Education** provides financial support for interdepartmental Neuroscience Grand Rounds at Upstate Medical University. Attending and resident physicians, advanced practice providers, medical students and staff in the departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery gather weekly, September through June, to hear lectures on current topics affecting their practices.

During the 2022-23 academic year, while most sessions were through Zoom format, several illustrious speakers were hosted on campus. Among those was Sara Manning-Peskin, MD, assistant professor of clinical neurology at the University of Pennsylvania. She spoke on the fascinating topic, "Standing on the Shoulders of Rejects: Stories of Failure and Persistence in Cognitive Neurology." Dr. Manning is best known for her popular recent book, "A Molecule Away from Madness," a series of case narratives of the newly recognized autoimmune encephalopathies. She met with neurology residents for an additional session on the value of medical humanities. Other in-person guest speakers included Robin Ortiz, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, who spoke of "Trauma-informed Neurologic Care." This visit generated much excitement among Upstate colleagues in pediatrics and social work. A multidisciplinary reception followed. Dr. Romergyko Geocadin, chief of Johns Hopkins Neurocritical Care Division, spoke on "Neurologic Prognostication after CPR."

On the neurosurgery side, Dr. Benjamin Kennedy, director of epilepsy and functional neurosurgery at Childrens Hospital of Pennsylvania, lectured on "Pediatric Epilepsy/Functional Neurosurgery: Not Just Little Adults." Dr. James Liu, professor and director of cerebrovascular/skull base & pituitary surgery at Rutgers, presented on "Accessing Deep Seated Skull Base Lesions: The Bo Jackson-Miyamoto Musashi Approach."

Several of Upstate's own faculty presented interesting topics, including Dr. Corey McGraw, director of the Upstate Neuroimmunology Division, who spoke on "CNS Sarcoidosis Diagnosis and Management." Dr. Shahram Izadyar, epilepsy division head, lectured on "Post-stroke Seizure and Epilepsy: Timing Matters." In addition, Carlos Muniz, MD, of the epilepsy division and David Auerbach, PhD, of pharmacology collaborated to present their research on "Cardiac Effects of Anti-seizure Medications." Finally, Dr. Ionana Medrea, director of the headache clinic, gave an update on "What is new in Cluster Headache? Scoping Review and Network Meta-analysis of Treatment Landscape."

Several departmental morbidity and mortality conferences covered clinicopathologic correlation in complex dementia.

Finally, as it does each year, Neuroscience Grand Rounds provided the opportunity for graduating residents and fellows in both departments to hone their lecturing skills and dive deep into a topic of their interest.

"Through the Wolf Endowment, Dr. John Wolf continues to educate the neurological community in Central New York. We are grateful for this support," said Deborah Young Bradshaw, MD, clinical professor and associate chair for Education.

PAIGE *continued from page 1*

Melanie Comito, MD

pediatric neuro-oncology patients in the context of a specialized program.

The Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology provides care for children, adolescents and young adults with oncologic and hematologic disorders, as well as childhood cancer survivors. In addition to serving the greater Syracuse area, the division provides care to 17 surrounding counties in Central New York. It is the regional sickle cell center as well as the regional hemophilia and bleeding disorders treatment center. The division currently consists of eight physicians, a psychologist and a nurse practitioner.

The Center for Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders is an active member of the Children's Oncology Group (COG). COG is an international clinical trials group supported by the National Cancer Institute and is the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to pediatric cancer research. This allows Upstate to provide the most current therapy while keeping children and their parents close to the support of family and friends at home. Patients are enrolled in Phase II and III clinical trials, biology studies, cancer control, and late effects studies. The division is also member of two other consortiums including the NEXT consortium which sponsors the Head Start 4 study for young children with malignant brain tumors and NACHO which sponsors studies for children with Langerhans cell histiocytosis.

In addition, the division has established new programs in pediatric vascular anomalies and cancer predisposition genetics, and has expanded its pediatric hematology/oncology clinical research office, and participates in national initiatives in patient safety for this population.