



# CHILD NEUROLOGY Alumni Newsletter

August 2017

## Introduction from the Chairman

Dear Colleagues and Alumni:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the alumni e-newsletter of the Center for Pediatric Neurosciences! It is my sincere hope that providing you with news and updates from the Center will help you stay connected with our Center and the broader Cleveland Clinic. We hope to provide a forum in which all alumni can remain in dialogue with each other, maintaining the important connections you have made at Cleveland Clinic.

Our alumni are now part of the extensive network of outstanding colleagues who have trained or worked at Cleveland Clinic over the last 40 years. We hope you look back on your time in our program with warmth and good memories. As alumni, you are the ambassadors who are able to communicate our successes as a program as we recruit and continue to provide world-class training for the next generation of child neurologists.

While this newsletter is intended to function as a source of information and a means of communication with our alumni, we encourage all of you to take an active part in the dialogue. So, as we update you on the various initiatives and achievements of our Center, we would also like to hear from you: your success stories, achievements, challenges, or interesting anecdotes. As a regular feature, we plan to highlight an alumnus or current staff member with each issue.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue and we look forward to your feedback and suggestions for a dynamic newsletter in which you reconnect with fellow alums, hear what everyone is accomplishing, and stay connected with us here at the Clinic.

In the meantime, I'll leave you with this throwback to a salient quote from founder George W. Crile, MD:

"We would like you to know the permanent staff and Board of Directors feel a great interest in your welfare and we shall follow you as far as possible with our interest and hope you will always remember this is an institution that is a home to which you may always return." – November 1926

With best wishes and warm regards,

**Dr. Neil Friedman, MBChB**

Director, Center for Pediatric Neurosciences  
friedmn@ccf.org



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– George W. Crile, MD,  
November 1926

# Alumni Spotlight // Gerry Erenberg

## Reflections from an Old-Timer

I was delighted to be asked to contribute to this first edition of the Alumni News. I have had the privilege of knowing almost all of our trainees since I first came to the Cleveland Clinic in 1976. Let me share a little bit of my background with you.

As was true for almost all medical school graduates during the Vietnam War, I spent 2 years in the Air Force after completing my Pediatric residency in Chicago (where I was born and raised and attended the University of Illinois College of Medicine). I then did my Pediatric Neurology Fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. After completing the fellowship, I stayed on as faculty at Albert Einstein from 1971 until 1976.

I have always been very interested in the areas of childhood neurodevelopmental and neurobehavioral problems. After my Fellowship, I was in charge of a Neurodevelopmental Clinic sponsored by the City of New York. In 1975, NYC was on the verge of bankruptcy, and the fate of my 10 staff people was in doubt. It was then that I met David Rothner at a CNS meeting. He was looking to bring on a second child neurologist to join him at the Cleveland Clinic, and I was ready to listen to a possible change in location. Dr Rothner and I grew up 3 blocks from each other in Chicago and both of us had attended the same Medical School, but we had never met each other until that CNS meeting.

So I joined David in 1976, and “the rest is history”. We worked together for almost 40 years, and we took great pride in our trainees. We watched as you grew and matured, and we rejoiced as we saw you go on to make your own contributions to the field of Child Neurology.

Just a few comments on how things have changed. When I began my career, a large institution might have as many as 5 child neurologists on staff. But I recently saw an ad from Boston Childrens Hospital looking to recruit another child neurologist to join the 60 child neurologists already on their staff! When we started our training program,



essentially all our graduates went out to start their own practice or to join one or two other child neurologists. More recently, most graduates have joined already existing large groups.

With the advent of large groups has come further subspecialization. In 1976, David Rothner and I took care of everything, from brain tumors to epilepsy to developmental problems and everything in between. At this point in time, we have each developed our own special niche, where we focus our practice on a specific area. For me, this turned out to be Tourette syndrome (TS). TS was a great fit for me because it included a combination of neurology and neurobehavioral issues.

But all good things eventually come to an end, and I have been fully retired since 2014. Thankfully, my wife and I continue to enjoy relative good health. We now can spend time with our 3 children and our 5 grandchildren. We have travelled extensively, and I have been taking adult learning courses, especially in my favorite area of history.

I wish each of you continued success, good health, and long life. And when the time is right for you, I definitely recommend retirement!

Best regards to all.....Gerry Erenberg



# Our Graduates

**Trishna Kantamneni** was born in Mumbai, India and grew up in various different cities across the country. She graduated from Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad in India before she moved to Cleveland for her residency.

After graduation, she will be staying at Cleveland Clinic for a fellowship in pediatric epilepsy. In her words, "I am grateful to CCF pediatric neurology for giving me such great mentors who helped me grow as a physician and being there at every step of the way; and friendships that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I will miss everyone at S60."

**Kofi Quist** was born in Hungary but grew up in Ghana. He graduated from the University of Science and Technology in Ghana and completed a combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics residency at Hurley Medical Center/Michigan State University. He will be joining a private neurology practice in Indianapolis.

"My fondest memories center around time spent with my attending physicians during outpatient clinics and time spent working with Trishna, Lileth, and Mike, "looking out" for each other and talking about life."

**Lileth Mondok** is originally from the Philippines. She graduated from the University of the Philippines Manila, and did her pediatrics residency at the Cleveland Clinic. After graduation, she will be joining as faculty in Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI. Her most memorable experience in Cleveland is the Cavs winning the 2016 NBA championship. However, she cannot play basketball and is only 4'10".



## Match Results



Bijina Shrestha

**Bijina Shrestha** graduated from the Manipal College of Medical Science in Nepal. For the past two years, she has been a pediatric resident here at Cleveland Clinic, where she has really adapted well to our system. She reminds us a lot of another recent graduate from Nepal, Gayatra Mainali, so we know she will be great!

**Anthony Staples** graduated from Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Anthony has also been an incredible star in the pediatrics residency at Cleveland Clinic, with a kind, gentle demeanor that has really stood out and been noticed by everyone. His wife is also a resident in the Northeast Ohio area.



Anthony Staples

We look forward to both Bijina and Anthony starting their neurology residencies in July 2017!

If you have any questions about the residency program, please feel free to contact Dr. Gary Hsich at [hsichg@ccf.org](mailto:hsichg@ccf.org)

# Physicians Urged to Sign up for Doximity

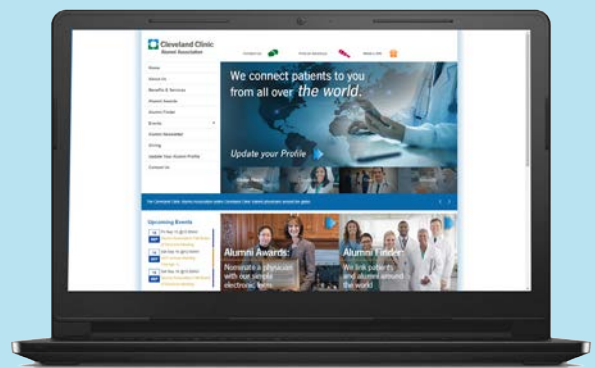
Doximity is the largest and fastest-growing medical network in the country, with more than 60 percent of all U.S. physicians as members. Physicians across all specialties use Doximity to connect with other physicians. Since 2014, *U.S. News & World Report* has used the network as the primary voting mechanism for its annual “Best Hospitals” ranking.

Physicians enrolled in Doximity receive an initial email invitation with a link to a survey, which asks them to supply the names of up to five hospitals in their specialty that provide the best care to patients with serious conditions, regardless of location or expense.

In addition, eligible Doximity members receive alerts inviting them to participate when they log on or use the Doximity app.

Claiming your profile is simple and only takes a few minutes. Just visit [Doximity.com](http://Doximity.com) or download the free mobile app. You will need to complete the physician verification process and create a secure login. Please finish the process by Dec. 1, to give us the best voting opportunity.

The staff at Cleveland Clinic would very much appreciate our alumni’s participation in the *U.S. News* voting process, and your supporting our programs. We hope that you will enroll in Doximity and claim your profile page. This quick, easy and very important action will give you the opportunity to participate in the *U.S. News* voting.



## Update Your Alumni Profile

**Have you moved?**

**Taken on a teaching position?**

**Received an academic promotion or professional recognition of some sort?**

**Decided to retire?**

**Have an interesting hobby or avocation you’d like to share?**

Your former Cleveland Clinic colleagues really want to know what you are up to. As well, we’d like to be able to find you should a fellow alum want to reach you or should we want to refer a patient to you.

Please take a few moments to share your comments with us, and we will make sure you are kept up-to-date on Alumni events. We welcome any news about your personal and professional accomplishments that you would like to share, and they may appear in the next Alumni Connection newsletter.

[alumni.clevelandclinic.org/join](http://alumni.clevelandclinic.org/join)