

Richmond University Medical Center

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Medical Center's New Stroke Sub-Specialty Program Saving Lives, Restoring Hope



Beth Kohn with the nursing staff and administrators on call when she arrived at the hospital after suffering a stroke in April.

In early April, Richmond University Medical Center performed the first successful mechanical thrombectomy procedure in its history, saving the life of 71-year-old Beth Kohn, a Staten Island resident. On May 30, Kohn returned to the hospital on her own, walking and talking, to say thank you.

"I want to tell all the people on the team that I am forever grateful," said Kohn during a special ceremony held in the Sipp Auditorium. Joined by her husband, Kohn recalled that she was at home in early April when she started having trouble speaking and experienced paralysis on her right side. She was rushed to Richmond University Medical Center, where the stroke team administered TPA, a clot-busting drug.

It was determined that she would also need a mechanical thrombectomy, a special device threaded through the blood vessels to the site of the stroke-causing blood clot in the brain. The device grabs the clot and removes it, restoring blood flow to brain tissue. Less than two hours after her arrival, the clot was removed and Kohn was talking to nurses and had regained full use of her extremities.

"The most cutting-edge treatment for strokes is now available to the people of Staten Island, enhancing their lives," said Allan Perel, M.D., board-certified director of the hospital's neurology/stroke team. "We at RUMC now have the most up-to-date cutting-edge technology to treat patients with an acute stroke, and improve their function post stroke."

Prior to having the capability to perform a thrombectomy on site, stroke victims treated at the hospital in need of the procedure were transferred to other medical facilities. By partnering with Interventional Neuro Associates (INA), this procedure adds to the award-winning, nationally accredited stroke care services offered at the medical center.



Dr. Jeffrey Farkas, who performed the first thrombectomy in the hospital's history and Richmond University Medical Center's director of neurology, Dr. Allan Perel.

"Our goal is to give every patient the chance to get back home in the best possible condition," added Jeffrey Farkas, M.D., the board-certified radiologist of Interventional Neuro Associates who performed Kohn's mechanical thrombectomy. "Being able to partner with Richmond University Medical Center to offer this new line of care to the residents of Staten Island will enhance patient outcomes because they will no longer need to travel long distances, away from home, which would delay what may very well be a life-saving procedure."

From the President & CEO

Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE, LNHA



Back in April I mentioned that our hospital was selected by the American Hospital Association (AHA) as a nominee for its 2019 Quest for Quality Prize. Each year the AHA awards the Quest for Quality Prize to one health care facility in the country that has demonstrated improved quality of care and advanced the well-being of its community through leadership and innovative practices.

More than 800 health care facilities across the country applied for the prize, of which 40 were selected based on their application. Out of these 40 hospitals,

6 were then chosen for a site visit by the AHA. Richmond University Medical Center was selected as one of these six finalists, and on March 11, a team of quality and safety experts from the AHA visited our hospital as part of the final step in selecting this year's winner.

I am excited to announce that Richmond University Medical Center will be awarded the AHA's citation of merit later this month in San Diego. We were selected along with the 2019 prize winner Carolinas Rehabilitation in Charlotte, North Carolina, and finalist Mission Health in Asheville, North Carolina. Carolinas Rehabilitation on the Carolinas Medical Center campus provides both inpatient and outpatient services. They are the first rehabilitation hospital to win the AHA's Quest for Quality prize. Our other fellow award winner, Mission Health, is a growing seven-hospital health system serving nearly 1 million people in 18 counties with a staff of more than 12,000 people.

The AHA selected our hospital as an award recipient after being thoroughly impressed by the wide range of programs

and services we have to address the high rate of opioid use in our community, especially our focus on providing behavioral and primary care services to this patient population. They were also impressed with how we effectively use a community needs assessment to address social determinants of health throughout Staten Island.

So as you can see, our mighty hospital is in great company and our leading edge services are now in the national spotlight. A huge thanks goes out to so many people who helped to make this award possible for us, especially assistant vice president of clinical informatics and population health, Boris Molchanskiy, who submitted the initial application and coordinated the AHA visit. This is a tremendous hospital-wide accomplishment we should all be proud of! Congratulations to all!

**Remember the Power of One —
You Make A Difference!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Messina".

Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

It is with deepest gratitude that I write this letter. I personally, and my entire family would like to thank the hospital physicians, administrators, and staff for their incredible professionalism, kindness, and knowledge.

When your family member is in need of medical help, even the most knowledgeable among us—I myself am a physician—can feel lost and powerless. It is at that time that I truly felt the support and care of everyone at Richmond University Medical Center.

I was impressed with the quality of care, the empathy, and the knowledge of everyone involved. I would recommend this hospital sincerely and

with an open heart to anyone at their time of need.

As a physician, having worked my whole life in many hospitals, I can proudly say that we are lucky to have this place on Staten Island, near our home.

Thanks to everyone who makes our lives a little safer.

— *Sincerely, Natalie B.*

To the wonderful nursing staff, physician's assistants, and doctors who took care of my Tom,

I am just now beginning to be able to find the strength enough to get

through writing a thank-you. With all that you did for my Tommy, I can't say thank you enough.

You are truly blessings to many, but most of all to Tom. He fought a very long, hard battle, but he just couldn't do it anymore. I was glad that he had you right by his side whenever I couldn't be there. The comfort of your care is beyond words. You all treated him as your own.

Please know that my heart is full and I pray for each and every one of you that the blessings in your life abound!

— *Elaine D.*

Richmond University Medical Center Recognized For Commitment to Quality Stroke Care

Richmond University Medical Center's stroke care program received another major recognition in June when the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association awarded the hospital its Get With The Guidelines Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.

To earn the award, the hospital met specific quality achievement measures including evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments as well as ensuring stroke care practices at the hospital were in alignment with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines. The award also recognizes the hospital's commitment to follow-up care including providing patients with education on managing their health, and scheduling a follow-up visit before their discharge.

The added distinction of "Target: Stroke Elite Plus" is in recognition of quality measures the hospital has also implemented to reduce the time between a stroke patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment using the clot-busting tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA.

In May, the hospital also earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers. In early April, the hospital also unveiled its new stroke mechanical thrombectomy sub-specialty program. Several successful procedures have already been performed by the hospital's neurology department.



Messina, La Barbera Honored for Service



Marianne La Barbera, M.D., FAAFP

Last month president of the medical staff, Marianne La Barbera, M.D., FAAFP, was honored by the New York State Academy of Family Physicians as its 2019 Family Physician of the Year. The first female president of the medical staff in Richmond University Medical Center's history, Dr. La Barbera received numerous nominations for the award from colleagues and patients, including Marilyn Joan Miller who has been a patient of Dr. La Barbera for the past 30 years.

Also honored last month, president and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE, was named the 2019 American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion. Presented at the annual awards meeting for the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), Dr. Messina was honored for his continuing efforts to effect change in health care policy through advocacy before the United States Congress.

Dr. Saverimuttu Joins Borough President's Panel on Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne illness in New York City and a growing number of people are becoming infected on Staten Island. To help educate the public on causes, symptoms, and treatments for Lyme disease, Staten Island Borough President James Oddo assembled a panel of experts for a public forum held at Wagner College. On the panel was Richmond University Medical Center's attending infectious disease specialist, Dr. Jessie Saverimuttu, M.D., Ph.D., AAHIVS.

Over 100 people attended the public forum, which featured experts from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Columbia University. Dr. Saverimuttu was the only local physician on the panel.



Richmond University Medical Center Holds Residency Commencement Ceremony

On June 1, Richmond University Medical Center held its residency commencement ceremony. Over 40 graduates from different departments were celebrated by family, friends, and hospital administration at the Grand Oaks Country Club.

Graduates hailed from departments including internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, radiology, podiatry, and OB/GYN. The welcoming address was provided by Richmond University Medical Center president and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE.

"It is a profound honor to be part of this special day," Dr. Messina said. "On behalf of the board of trustees, our administration, and everyone on our medical staff, congratulations to all the graduates and their families."



Departments Compete in Medical Jeopardy

On June 6, several departments at Richmond University Medical Center were placed in Jeopardy—the game show that is. Several departments went head to head in the hospital's version of the game show, with categories focusing on service delivery, quality, and risk management. In the end, the psychiatry department was declared the Jeopardy champion.

Each department selected two representatives to answer questions and earn points for their department. Categories included patient relations and experience, infection control and prevention, and legal and risk compliance.

To win the prize of cake and dessert for their department, psychiatry beat out the departments of medicine, OB/GYN, pediatrics, podiatry, and radiology.



Emergency Department Director Addresses Tottenville HS Med Tech Students



Richmond University Medical Center's board certified emergency department director, Harry Kopolovich, M.D., MBA, FAAEM, FAEMS, was recently invited by Tottenville High School to speak to its medical technology students about life in a hospital emergency room.

About 30 students had the chance to hear about the benefits, and the intensity, of being on the front line of trauma medicine. Dr. Kopolovich spoke about how emergency department staff treat fractures and minor injuries as well as life-changing conditions such as stroke and heart attacks. While Dr. Kopolovich spoke about the long hours, stress, and having to sometimes deliver bad news to family members, the positives, he said, far outweigh those drawbacks, especially when a life has been saved.

"There are no words to describe how it feels when you know that someone is still alive because of what you and your team did," Dr. Kopolovich said. "When you do save a life, it's never by yourself. It takes a team. I am proud to be part of such a great team of professionals at Richmond University Medical Center. We're saving lives every day."



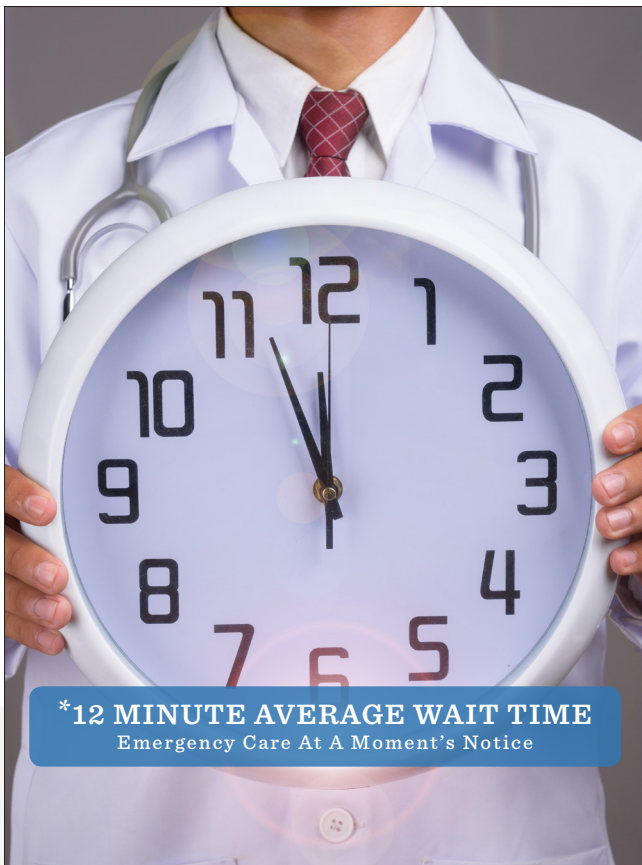
Medical Residents Participate in Research Day

Medical residents from department of medicine participated in the Annual Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai GME Consortium Research Day on June 7. This year marked the 10th annual research day.

June New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Gerardo Bernad, *PT*
Ashley Brown, *Clerk*
Jesus Colon, *Security Guard*
Christian Contessa, *Nurse Extern*
Joseph Cunningham, *PA*
Stephen DeMaio, *Manager*
Katherine Dingman, *RN*
Kerry Egan, *Nurse Extern*
Nicole Finkelstein, *RN*
Karla Galindo, *Nurse Extern*
Ashley Guarnaccia, *RN*
Nilanthi Hemade, *Lab Tech*
Paul Jeremie, *Lab Tech*
Ana Juarez, *Office Support*
Haroon Khan, *Radiation Therapist*
Wei Lin, *Occupational Therapist*
Yu Liu, *Pathology Assistant*
Samantha Maizer, *Nurse Extern*

Marek Mazur, *Security Guard*
Megan Melapioni, *Nurse Extern*
Michael Nanry, *Housing Coordinator*
Madeline Parisi, *DRT*
Michael Porter, *Nurse Extern*
Leah Riley, *Switchboard Operator*
Taylor Roberts, *Nurse Extern*
Joseph Ruggiero, *Nurse Extern*
Lisa Russo, *HR Assistant*
Sari Santiago-Vidal, *Office Support*
Jaleesa Sapp, *Guest Rep*
John Smith, *BH Therapist-Social Worker*
Brianne Sozio, *Nurse Extern*
Leonardo Tamburello, *Director*
Danilo Ventura, *Child Healthcare Coordinator*
Christopher Wodzinski, *Nurse Extern*
Regina Yankelevich, *Nurse Extern*



Our award-winning emergency room has one of the lowest wait times in the country. That means our medical staff sees you faster than at most other hospitals.

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RUMC mobile app
featuring real-time
emergency room
wait times



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*Average wait time according to (CMS) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
National Avg: 25 minutes, New York State Avg: 34 minutes.

Richmond University Medical Center Auxiliary Hosts 2019 Luncheon



Incoming auxiliary president Sharon Mineo

Over 100 people attended the Richmond University Medical Center Auxiliary's annual luncheon at the Richmond County Country Club on June 6 to commemorate a year's worth of achievements and dedication to the hospital's mission.

Throughout the year, the auxiliary provides its support to the hospital by raising funds and by providing services that help the hospital maintain premier quality health care for Staten Island. In the spring, they purchased and donated infant clothing for babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) born to low-income families. Proceeds from

the luncheon will benefit the hospital's labor and delivery department, newborn nursery, pediatrics department, maternity department, and the NICU.

"These are individuals who take precious time out of their lives to raise support and volunteer, among many other activities, all to make sure Richmond University Medical Center continues to be a beacon of hope and care for all of Staten Island," president and CEO Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE said.

The auxiliary also recently installed a new slate of officers for 2019-2020, including new president Sharon Mineo.

Meet Our New Trustee: Timothy C. Harrison

Timothy C. Harrison is the principal of TCH Realty & Development Co., LLC. The company's focus is the clean-up and restoration to productive use of contaminated and blighted real properties in the mid-Atlantic states.

Timothy graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College with highest distinction in government. He has a juris doctor degree from the University of Virginia Law School, where he was a Hardy Dillard Fellow, and a master's degree in tax law from New York University School of Law. He is a member of the bars for New York State and Pennsylvania.

Timothy currently serves as a director and chairman of the loan committee of Northfield Bancorp. He also serves as chairman of the Northfield Foundation; chairman of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and Social Sciences at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire; president of the board of trustees of Staten Island Academy; and second vice chair of Project Hospitality on Staten Island.



Survivors Celebrate Their Victory Over Cancer

Richmond University Medical Center held its annual cancer survivors celebration dinner on June 17 to connect survivors with each other and to provide an opportunity for them to thank those who provided support throughout their treatment.

Among those in attendance were the hospital's president and chief executive officer Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE; chief operating officer and chief nurse officer Rosemarie Stazzone, RN, MS, CNE; board certified director of oncology, Thomas Forlenza, M.D., and members of the hospital's oncology department.

Also coming by to celebrate with survivors and their families were Rep. Max Rose; Staten Island Deputy Borough President Ed Burke; Anthony Reinhart, representing NYS Senator

Andrew J. Lanza; and Christine Johnson, representing NYC Council Member Debi Rose. Both Johnson and Burke are cancer survivors themselves.

June also marked the one year anniversary of the hospital's Center for Cancer Care, located at 1000 South Avenue.



RUMC EMT and cancer survivor Eric Padilla with radiation oncologist Hoon Lee, M.D..



Left to right: Associate director of cancer services Debbie Rodriguez, CTR; NYC Council Member Debi Rose's chief of staff and cancer survivor Christine Johnson; president and CEO Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE; director of oncology, Thomas Forlenza, M.D.; Staten Island Deputy Borough President and cancer survivor Ed Burke; and COO and chief nurse officer; Rosemarie Stazzone, RN, MS, CNE.