

Richmond University Medical Center

An Affiliate of the Mount Sinai Health Network

CHRONICLE

August 2018

Three Year Cancer Accreditation with Commendations from ACS

The American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer has awarded Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation to the cancer program here at Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC). Since 1937, RUMC's cancer program has held the approval of the Commission, one of the most prestigious national accreditations in the field of cancer. This latest accreditation marks 81 consecutive years of approval from the Commission for RUMC. Only 12% of the institutions surveyed by the Commission receive recurring accreditation with commendations.

To earn accreditation, RUMC continues to meet or exceed the Commission's quality care standards in the delivery of comprehensive patient-centered cancer care. Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation is only awarded to facilities that exceed the Commission's standard requirements.

"No one wants to hear they or someone they know has cancer. But in those circumstances, you want to find the best care possible, as quickly as possible. For eighty-one years, RUMC is proud to have been at the forefront of helping Staten Island residents in their fight against cancer," Daniel J. Messina, Pd.D., FACHE, LNHA, President and CEO, said.

This past May, RUMC opened its state of the art Center for Cancer Care, located at 1000 South Avenue. The center is home to the most sophisticated tools and technologies available to diagnose and treat cancer. Physicians at the center provide comprehensive care tailored to the patient, including onsite radiation therapy treatments. The center is also a learning facility providing medical professionals the latest training in the field of oncology.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 1.7 million cases of cancer will be diagnosed nationwide in 2018. According to recent findings from the New York State Department of Health, Staten Island has had the highest overall cancer rate in New York City from 2011 to 2015. Cases of thyroid cancer on Staten Island are 67 percent higher than the state average, making it the highest of all counties in New York State.

Established in 1922 by the American College of Surgeons, the Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving patient outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care. Its membership includes Fellows of the American College of Surgeons.

Congratulations to everyone here at RUMC for their efforts, making it possible to achieve this prestigious accreditation once again. Special recognition must be given to Deborah Rodriguez, CTR, for her continuous organization and coordination. THANK YOU Debbie!



A **QUALITY PROGRAM**
of the AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

Message from the President & CEO Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE, LNHA



Dear Friends,

Our future is very bright and it's because of every single person here that we are proudly continuing to grow and expand. You've heard me talk about our new centers opening for cardiopulmonary rehab, breast care, bariatrics, cancer, and orthopedics. None of this would be possible without your consistent showing of professional care and commitment each day. It makes people want to come here when they need care, and drives people to want to join our family of professionals. In a word, it's called reputation.

Our reputation continues to grow across Staten Island and beyond our bridges. It is cemented in the local, state and national recognition we receive for our programs and services as illustrated by our recent cancer accreditation with commendation by the American College of Surgeons, or the great work of our PPS or ACO. It is supported by our standing in the community as a good neighbor and partner. It is highlighted through social media and news outlets that spread the message about the good work we do day in and day out.

But the lifeblood of our reputation is you and your colleagues. My excitement about our future is fueled by the care I see you give each day, the stories you share with me in the halls, the letters and words of thanks about you from patients and their families, and most importantly from what I have seen firsthand.

In the coming months we will be announcing continuing opportunities for the hospital to show its appreciation for what you do. It may be little things like promoting your department on social media, and it may be larger events such as outings and hospital-wide events. Our creative wheels are turning and we also want to hear from you so please send us ideas to consider and make sure to check your emails.

In closing, our future and our reputation is solid thanks to you. You have helped us get where we are today, and you are moving us into the future with your talents, commitment and dedication. Making sure that you realize how important you are and ensuring that you view our hospital and your colleagues as family is one of, if not *the*, highest priority I have.

Remember, the power of one – you make a difference!

Patient Satisfaction

A Note of Thanks

Dear Dr. Safar,

Once in a lifetime you meet someone who touches your life in a thousand ways. Dr. Safar, you are one of those select few for me. I know you are starting a new journey, but I hope and pray that we can be in touch from time to time. I desperately want to keep in contact with you.

When I first met you – at that time in my life I didn't know whether or not there was a chance I could die – every time you spoke to me you eased that fear. I shall be forever grateful to have had you for my doctor. My husband and I wish you all the best in your new career. We know you are going to be great!

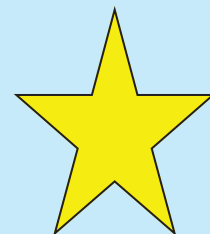
May God always be with you and watch over your family. We will never forget you. All our gratitude.

Katrina T.

Life on earth is as fragile as a heartbeat. When you survive a bradycardia where your heart is so slow that it is minutes away from completely stopping, the reality of impermanent is made clear. I thank the ER medical personnel of Richmond University Hospital who worked on keeping me earth-bound, alive. In between smiles, joking, and encouraging each other, my heart did not give in. I said: "I think I have more work to do on earth" and this, thanks to the ER personnel who admired that as my heart was in such trouble, I took time to smile, joke, and encouraged them. This is one time we all worked as a team.

Well, today I live in gratitude and with a pacemaker. There was no fear at that moment, only one prayer of thankfulness. May all who read this know that life on earth is impermanent and it is our actions of love that give meaning to our lives.

Edwin G.



Support for Speed Safety Cameras

Richmond University Medical Center held a rally in support of speed safety cameras.

Joining forces with Transportation Alternatives, Hospital President and CEO Daniel Messina addressed the crowd, saying "Since 2014, at least 61 people have been killed by drivers on Staten Island streets -- including at least 26 pedestrians. Because thousands more have been injured, including over 500 so far this year, we are joining with other NYC hospitals in the support of speed safety cameras. We see first-hand these injuries and deaths, and want to encourage safe driving within the speed limit,"

Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives, also addressed this issue noting that legislation in Albany is pending to renew speed safety cameras. While overall pedestrian fatalities on Staten Island are falling year-over-year, the rate of senior pedestrians killed by drivers on Staten Island is actually increasing annually.

Staten Islanders are much more likely to drive than residents of any other borough: 82% of households in Staten Island own at least one car. With this increased driving comes an increased responsibility to protect the most vulnerable road users.



Teen Leadership

A big shout-out to TD Charitable Foundation for its generous financial support of Teen Leadership, one of RUMC's flagship student volunteer programs. For almost a decade, Teen Leadership has provided about 400 Staten Island high school students with a chance to serve our patients and community. The eight-week summer program has gained in popularity, too, with a record 80-plus students participating in both 2017 and 2018. Students have the option of working with employees in Ambulatory Surgery, Radiology, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Biomed, Interventional Radiology, Pediatrics, Outpatient Oncology, Emergency Room, Labor & Delivery, Maternity, Laboratory, or Information Technology.

Colleen Ford, RN, MSN, of RUMC's Nursing Education Department, launched Teen Leadership in 2010 and continues to shepherd students through the program.



Summer Celebration—June 27, 2018

Perfect evening as we honored the legacy of Dr. Anantham Harin and celebrated our healthcare heroes Dr. Joan Graziano, Carol Olsen, and the Randazzo Family.



BOURBON STREET
SAVE THE DATE

11 | 3 | 2018

Hilton Garden Inn
Staten Island, NY

RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
12th Annual Gala

"A New Orleans Celebration"

RAFFLE
PRIZES INCLUDE
ROLEX
FUR COAT AND A
TRIP TO DISNEY!

PLUS BOURBON
TASTING!

Register at: www.rumcsi.org/gala
For any questions contact

Krista Desiderio 718.818.2788 kdesiderio@rumcsi.org



2ND ANNUAL
RUMC 5K
RUN/WALK

TO BENEFIT THE PEDIATRIC UNIT IN THE NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Clove Lakes Park

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018
8:00AM REGISTRATION | 10:00AM RACE START

JOIN US FOR THE AFTERPARTY

Register, Sponsor and Donate at:

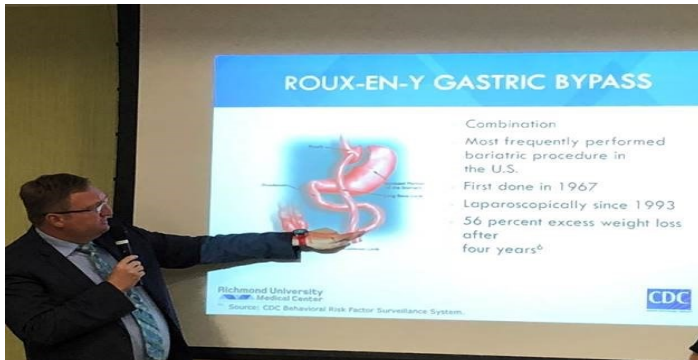
www.RUMCSI.org/5K

VITAL
Our Campaign to Transform Emergency Care

**Richmond University
Medical Center**

Bariatric Seminar

Dr. Alex Barkan, Chief of Bariatric Surgery for Richmond University Medical Center, hosted a seminar at the Hilton Garden Inn on July 19th focusing on the weight loss benefits of bariatric surgery. Dr. Barkan explained the various methods available to help people including gastric bypass, and placement of a gastric band or "Lap Band". He also provided detailed information on the patient screening process before any type of procedure can occur, possible side effects after a procedure is completed, and long term care to maximize benefits. For more information please call the Richmond University Medical Center Institute for Weight Loss and Metabolic Surgery at 718-818-4020.



Patients Thanking Caregivers



Thank you to our entire team of dedicated professionals who strive every day to deliver compassionate connected care. If your team receives accolades from a patient or their loved one be sure to send a team picture to the Patient Relations Team!



Dr. Pepe Honored



Richmond University Medical Center's Director of Hemodialysis, Dr. John Pepe, was honored on Monday, July 9th by the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation for his dedication and commitment to families affected by lupus.

Dr. Pepe and others were honored at the Foundation's annual Golf Classic at Richmond County Country Club. Proceeds from the event will help to support the Lupus Research Alliance, which works to improve diagnosis, treatment and a cure for lupus. "Everyone in the RUMC family is proud to call Dr. Pepe their colleague. His tireless commitment to helping people cope with lupus so they can lead active lives has earned him the thanks and appreciation of countless families. The Foundation could not have selected a more deserving honoree," said President and CEO Daniel J. Messina.

Photo: (left to right): Richard Salhany, Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning & Medical Operations and Executive Director, A.C.O.; Rosemarie Stazzone, Chief Nurse Officer & Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Pietro Carpenito, Executive Vice President; Dr. John Pepe; Dr. Marianne LaBarbera, President of the Medical Staff; and Dr. Daniel Messina.

Procedure Day 2018

On behalf of Ana Paula Oppenheimer, M.D. and the Department of Medicine, we would like to say "THANK YOU" to those who took the time to assist with teaching our new Residents. We could not have done it without you!



Welcome July 2018 New Hires

Samuel Abjei-Badu, Central Sterile Tech

Niveen Bebawy, Hospitalist

Tawanna Canterbury, Nurse Extern

Erik Cruz, Clerk 1

Mariama Davies-Koromah, RN

Megan Lynn Duffy, Nurse Extern

Vladimir Fedosseev, Physical Therapist

Peter Genau, Nurse Extern

Jonathan Gomberg, Nurse Extern

Grace Laban, RN

Toniann Lamirata, Nurse Extern

Andrew Lunarola, Nurse Extern

Eugene Margoulis, Central Sterile Worker

Humroy Mendez, Trauma Data Analyst

Andrew Paoluccio, Building service Worker

Julia Piscopo, Nurse Extern

German Pustov, Nurse Extern

Bledar Rustia, Transporter

Tessy Samuel, Nurse Extern

Maxim Shulimovich, Medicine

Breanna Singh, Nursing Assistant

Anu Thomas, Nuclear Med Tech

Ying Tong Guo, Nurse Extern

Ashley Wentworth, Unit Clerk

Mark Yefymenko, Nurse Extern

Saphire Yeheskiel, Nurse Extern

Jamie Ziznewski, Nurse Extern

Ready to quit smoking?

TOBACCO DEPENDENCE TREATMENT SIX WEEK COURSE

Class Schedule:

All classes are Wednesdays
6:00pm – 7:00pm

Sept. 5 Oct. 3
Sept. 12 Oct. 10
Sept. 19
Sept. 26

Place:

The Allan Weissglass
Pavilion located off
the main lobby.

Nicotine patches
will be available at
the completion
of the course.

To reserve a seat, please call 718-818-2391

Richmond University
Medical Center



Meet Richmond University Medical Center's new Director of Public Relations and Marketing - Alex Lutz. Alex joins the RUMC family after serving as Executive Director of the Staten Island Not For Profit Association, a membership organization that assisted over 100 of Staten Island's nonprofits with training, resources and funding. From 2005 to 2016, Alex served as Senior Regional Director of Community and Government Relations for the

American Red Cross in Greater New York. Alex created the chapter's community/government relations department, which at the time was one of the first chapter-based departments of its kind in the country. Alex's primary responsibilities included interacting with community organizations and elected officials across New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley. Alex was honored by the National Red Cross during his tenure with the organization for his leadership, and for his community outreach activities in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in 2012. In his professional career, Alex has also served as a Chief of Staff to a New York City Council Member, and worked as a news reporter for television and print media.

Alex earned a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from St. John's University (Queens Campus), and lives in Great Kills with his wife Suzanne and their two daughters.

PSA Event at SI Yankee Stadium

On June 22nd, our Community Outreach Team, led by Lorraine Scanni, was joined by members of our IT Department and RUMC Public Safety Officers where they offered ball game attendees free PSA blood tests.

Special thank you to all of our dedicated employees who made this event a success.

Joe Cuzzo, IT; Joe Morelli, IT; Jack Scenna, IT; Nurse Navigator Marie Kimball; Michael Hendrick, Public Safety; Justin Ragozino, Public Safety; Joyce Hackman, PCT; Michael Brent, Registration; and Carolyn Hodrick, Registration.



Happenings—In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)

- ⇒ Our Dietary Department hosted a Cancer Prevention event in the cafeteria. With free food samples, recipes, nutrition handouts, and healthy snacks on hand the goal was to educate people about how disease-fighting foods can change one's cancer destiny.
- ⇒ The RUMC NICU Fundraiser hosted by the Randazzo Family was a smashing success! More details soon!
- ⇒ On June 21st, Central Family Life Center honored Trauma Program Manager Christopher Ruiz, RN. Chris was recognized for his work in the community and his efforts in injury prevention. Congratulations Chris! We are all proud of you!



- ⇒ On July 16th, representatives from Subaru of America and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society delivered over 80 blankets and arts and crafts kits to pediatric patients at Richmond University Medical Center.
- ⇒ On July 11th, RUMC gave a fond farewell to Dr. Mansoor Khan who is leaving Richmond University Medical Center after serving as its Emergency Department Chair since 2014. Among those who came to thank Dr. Kahn for his leadership and service was RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina; Rosemarie Stazzone, COO and Chief Nurse Officer; and Board of Trustees member Allan Weissglass.



The Trauma Team was invited to go to the 121st Precinct to hold a “Stop the Bleed” refresher session for their officers. Approximately 25 officers participated in the event where the officers practiced the A, B, C’s of how to Stop the Bleed, including wound packing and proper tourniquet use. Each officer was able to practice their skills at four different stations. The officers – already trained in Stop the Bleed techniques – thanked our Trauma Team for making them feel more confident and ready to tackle any trauma they encounter. Thank you to the 121 and the great officers we met!

The Trauma Team and Tammy the Trauma Ambi also participated in the Police Athletic League Summer Camp’s Emergency Response Day, the Snug Harbor Sprinkler Fest, and Staten Island Yankee Stadium Health and Fitness Night. Campers also took part in the Stop the Bleed program.



Jim Donnelly, EMS

Early morning hike in Lake Tekapo, New Zealand



Monthly Employee Photo Contest!

We are looking for fun, exciting, dynamic, high quality images that reflect the active lifestyles of those on the staff here at RUMC. These should be photos that reflect the idea to restore, support, and promote active and healthy lifestyles. Going for a run? Snap a photo of the sunrise. A late night stroll? Send us that picture of the sunset. Use your imagination and capture the beauty, whimsy, or nostalgia that surrounds us every day.

Please send those photos or any newsworthy materials and photos to Lorraine Scanni at: lscanni@rumcsi.org.

