

Allan Weissglass: A Lifetime of Giving Back to Our Community

The Medical Center Remembers Former Board Chair and Trustee

Last month, longtime supporter and friend of Richmond University Medical Center Allan Weissglass passed away at his home in Todt Hill. He was 84 years old. Mourned and remembered across Staten Island by community leaders, elected officials, and the community, Weissglass held the hospital close to his heart.

Weissglass was born at the hospital and throughout his life never forgot the place where his first moments of life happened. Over his lifetime it would be hard to measure the time, talent, and resources he brought to ensure that the hospital continued to grow and to be able to meet the increasing need for its services by the Staten Island community.

A graduate of Curtis High School, Weissglass earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University and his master's degree in business administration from NYU's School of Business. A successful businessman, Weissglass continued to give back to the community, helping a variety of nonprofits and organizations across Staten Island. From 1988 to 1994, he served as chairman of the board for the former St. Vincent's Hospital, now Richmond University Medical Center. He was the first Jewish person to chair the board of the hospital, which at the time was part of the Catholic network of hospitals across New York City. His leadership was instrumental in guiding the hospital during its transition into the present-day Richmond University Medical Center. Weissglass would remain an active and influential member of the board of trustees for the hospital until his passing.

"Allan's loss is a very tough one for my wife Debbie and me," hospital President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said. "Upon



Allan Weissglass at the dedication of the Weissglass Pavilion in 2016 (top left); Allan with Executive Vice President Dr. Pietro Carpenito (top right); and Allan with his wife Bobby, Board Chair Kathryn K. Rooney, and President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE.

my arrival at Richmond University Medical Center, I quickly learned that underneath that tall and strong frame was a sensitive, caring, incredibly loving man. While his universe was his wonderful family, Richmond University Medical Center and the JCC I believe were his true community loves. I was truly blessed that not only did Allan take me under his wing professionally, but also he and his wonderful wife Bobby took my wife and me into their lives personally. The four of us shared many dinners, and I'm so happy that our most recent dinner was not that long ago, to celebrate his birthday. He touched the lives of many and truly loved Staten Island. A true gentleman and scholar. Allan truly made the world a better place. God bless you, Allan."

For Board Chair Kathryn K. Rooney, the loss of Allan is personal as well. "There are a lot of hearts broken across Staten Island," Rooney said. "Allan was one of my best friends and he was one of the greatest people I have ever known. He was Staten Island at our very best."

From the President & CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE



Every March is colon cancer awareness month. Colon cancer affects both men and women, though men are at higher risk. According to the American Cancer Society, about one in 22 men and one in 24 women will be diagnosed with colon cancer in their lifetime. In 2019, over 101,000 new cases of colon cancer will be diagnosed, and over 51,000 people are expected to die from the disease. Given these sobering statistics, it is important to understand the risk factors associated with colon cancer. Some risk factors are

unavoidable. Others can be changed and may result in lowering your chance of diagnosis.

The first is your weight. So please watch what you eat, and exercise to help keep off unwanted pounds. For people with morbid obesity, weight loss surgery may be an option. At Richmond University Medical Center, our Bariatric and Metabolic Institute (BMI) offers the least invasive weight loss surgery procedures. To find out more, visit rumcsi.org/BMI or call 718-818-4020 to make an appointment.

Diet is another risk factor. A diet high in red meats and processed meats raises your risk. Look to eat lean meats and lots of fruits and vegetables. Heavy consumption of alcohol is a risk factor as well — limiting it may lead to better health.

Smoking has so many negatives for your health, it's not surprising that colon cancer is one of them. Smokers are more likely to develop and die from colon cancer than non-smokers. We have an

excellent tobacco cessation program, led by Nurse Navigator Nancy Sayegh-Rooney, that can help you. For more information or to schedule a screening, call 718-818-2391.

Each year, thousands of procedures are performed by our experienced physicians, nurses, and technicians in the gastroenterology department. Our procedure rooms contain the most up-to-date diagnostic and treatment equipment available. To make an appointment, call 718-818-3290.

Lastly, as spring approaches, work will finally begin on our much anticipated emergency department expansion project and co-generation plant. We will also complete our new parking lot. Lots of exciting new initiatives are finally coming to pass, thanks to your commitment and exceptional work day in and day out.

Remember the Power of One – You Make a Difference!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE

Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

My wife Rachel was hit by a car last month while we were visiting her parents in Staten Island. She was taken by ambulance to RUMC, where she was hospitalized from December 12 to December 14.

Since we arrived back home in Israel, I have been meaning to write to thank the staff at RUMC, both for their professionalism and for what I can best call their “*menschlichkeit*.” It is one of the few Yiddish words I know and can be summed up as the qualities that make someone a caring, kind, and honest person.

I noticed this at all levels and among all providers of care and service — nurses and doctors, clerical staff, technicians, transporters. It was a far cry from the attitude I remember that prevailed

in New York hospitals when I was growing up and where I lived for the first 38 years of my life.

My guess is that this didn't just happen in a vacuum, but rather is the product of a concerted effort from the hospital's management to inculcate among all hospital employees the importance of compassionate care and service to patients and their families.

With great thanks and appreciation,

— *David K.*

A few weeks ago I was in the Endoscopy Unit. While only there for a short time, I was most impressed with the service, but even more so with the quality of the care that I received.

While the nursing skills are very important, equally important, in my opinion, is the quality of care, e.g., empathy, concern, understanding, etc. The staff listed below demonstrated these qualities exceptionally well. Granted, my procedure was a relatively simple one, but one I had never had before. Your staff took the time to ensure that I understood the procedure, answered all of my questions, and reassured me in my nervousness. Geri Coscia, Terry Venturelli, Eileen Fitzgerald, and Lil Russell are the types of employees who should be held up as role models. They are a credit to the RUMC organization. Please give them my thanks for making a potentially unpleasant experience not so bad!

— *Mark H.*

Congratulations to Dr. Jessie Saverimuttu



Dr. Jessie Saverimuttu

Congratulations to Dr. Jessie Saverimuttu, who has been selected to receive the Excellence in Health Care Award for Quality Improvement Champions from the United Hospital Fund. Dr. Saverimuttu is one of 55 health care providers chosen from across New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley to

receive the award. As chief of quality improvement at Richmond University Medical Center, she leads programs and policies that over the last three years have led to progressively lower infection rates that are now well below the national average.

Richmond University Medical Center Welcomes New Emergency Department Nursing Interns



Richmond University Medical Center's new class of emergency department nursing interns with their mentors and supervisors.

The emergency department of Richmond University Medical Center kicked off 2019 by welcoming nine new nursing interns and pairing them with senior nurses to serve as mentors. The mentors and interns met for the first time during an informal meet and greet at the hospital. The program pairs the new nursing interns for 2019 with mentors who joined the department in 2018 and 2017.

The purpose of the mentoring program is to support the development of nurses as they transition into professional practice in the emergency department, to foster the development of a

stronger nursing community, and to enhance the leadership skills of nurses already assigned to the emergency department as they assume the role of being a mentor. Mentors are asked to volunteer their time and are given training in important areas of focus to share with the interns, such as effective communication with patients and colleagues, care for the caregiver, and maintaining professionalism at all times. The mentorship officially lasts for three to six months, but often goes longer as mentors and interns continue to interact with one another over the course of their careers at Richmond University Medical Center.

"Having a mentor who has experience and can impart that knowledge at the beginning of someone's career helps build confidence and trust," Chief Nurse Officer and COO Rosemarie Stazzone said. "Through formal and informal counseling our mentors become teachers, coaches, advocates, and role models. In the end, both new interns and mentors find themselves learning from each other, which only benefits the level of care we provide to our patients."

Dr. Thomas Forlenza Helps Bridge the Generation Gap on Staten Island.



Recently, Director of Oncology Dr. Thomas Forlenza helped bridge the gap between generations by introducing students from three local high schools to senior citizens living at Eger Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Lighthouse Hill. The partnerships were intended to help different generations better understand and appreciate one another.

A total of nine students participated in this year's program. The students were from Monsignor Farrell High School in Oakwood, Moore Catholic High School in Bulls Head, and Notre Dame Academy in Silver Lake. The students visited the seniors three times, developing friendships and bonds not possible in the classroom. Each student was then asked to write about their

experiences and also provide a verbal presentation.

"The future belongs to the young," Dr. Forlenza said. "So long as we the older generations do not forget our responsibility to mentor the youth with our learned wisdom, we should do well."

Dr. Forlenza, a knight of Malta, initiated the program through the Sovereign Order of Malta. One of the oldest institutions in Western and Christian civilization, the Sovereign Order of Malta is active in 120 countries caring for people in need through its medical, social, and humanitarian works.



Senior VP for Strategic Planning & Medical Operations Named to National Committee

board of directors on issues such as legislation and proposed regulations being considered by Congress and the US Department of Health and Human Services.

In his role at Richmond University Medical Center, Salhany is responsible for medical operations and strategic planning for the organization. He is responsible for the development of new programs and expansion of the hospital as well as the Level I Adult Trauma and Level II Pediatric Trauma Program. He has held several executive positions within the organization including vice president operations, senior vice president professional services, and chief operating officer. He also managed the transition of the medical center from the St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers

Health System into an independent organization.

Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) comprise doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers that voluntarily collaborate to give coordinated health care to Medicare patients. By coordinating their services, it helps ensure patients get high quality care while also preventing unnecessary duplication of services and medical errors.

NAACOS is the largest association of Medicare ACOs in the country. Representing more than five million Medicare beneficiaries through its members, the goals of NAACOS are to improve the quality of health care, and health care cost efficiency.

The National Association of ACOs (NAACOS) announced that Richard Salhany, senior vice president for planning and medical operations at Richmond University Medical Center, has been named to its Policy Committee. In his new role, Salhany will help guide the organization's advocacy agenda and provide feedback to the

Meet our Trustees: John Vincent Scalia



Founder of the John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., and a licensed funeral director, John Vincent Scalia is a native Staten Islander. He has been a business and community leader for over 30 years, serving most notably in the healthcare arena as founding member and chairman of the board of trustees for Pax Christi Hospice for 10 years, for which he received the "Spirit of Life" award. He also served as board member for Eger Nursing Home for 13 years and is currently chairman of the board for the Community Agency for Senior Citizens. Mr. Scalia received the Rabbi Marcus Kramer

Humanitarian Award in 2010 and has been recognized for his community service and leadership with awards from Seton Foundation for Learning (2009), St. Albans Episcopal Church (2007), Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (2007), Staten Island Democratic Party (2007), Friends of Hospice (2003) and the Deborah Heart League of New York City, where he received the "Man of the Year" award in 2003. He is a member of Holy Child Church and St. Clare's Church and maintains a residence in Eltingville.

Save the Date...

**Monday,
May 13th, 2019**

**Jack Sipp
Golf, Tennis
and Bocce Outing**

to benefit
Richmond University Medical Center

Honoring:
Dr. Chitoor Govindaraj and Joseph Torres
at
The Richmond County Country Club

Register at:
www.rumcsi.org/golf

February New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Alyamma Ali, *Nursing Assistant*

Amanda Barbaria, *Medical Assistant*

Jude Bright, *Security Guard*

Gabrielle Capasso, *RN*

Amanda Cappiello, *Registrar*

Edmond Chang, *CST*

Hymina Daniels, *MHT*

Alan Del Vecchio, *Plumber*

Debra Downtin, *Nursing Assistant*

Stephanie Erichsen, *RN*

Michelle Escalante, *Guest Rep*

Vicky Figueroa, *Nursing Assistant*

Shaquana Harper, *Nursing Assistant*

Shannika Howell, *Delivery Room Tech*

Anastasia Lomotey, *Nursing Assistant*

Diana Macauley, *RN*

Julie McCullough, *Nursing Assistant*

Sandra Muscarello, *Nursing Assistant*

Joyetta Nuan, *Unit Assistant*

Gregory Palladino, *RN*

Wendy Rodriguez, *RN*

William Rosario, *Supervisor*

Asia Sanders, *Nursing Assistant*

Robert Scott, *HVAC Mechanic*

Bianca Tumino, *Registrar*

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Marina Fedorovsky, *Payroll Manager*



FREE SEMINAR

Richmond University
Medical Center
Bariatric and Metabolic Institute

WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY



Alex Barkan, MD, MBA,
FACS, FASMBS
Chief of Bariatric Surgery

"I just wanted to be healthy. I wanted to guarantee a spot for me in my children's future."

— Kristen, actual patient of Dr. Alex Barkan

Tuesday, March 26 • 7:00pm

To register, call 718-818-4020

Hilton Garden Inn, 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island NY 10314

Richmond University Medical Center

Using Nicotine: Can We Talk?

Fact: Between 2017 and 2018, the number of high school students using nicotine products **increased 78%**. The number of middle school students **increased 48%.***

Richmond University Medical Center is offering **free 30-minute presentations** for students, parents, and adults about the dangers of tobacco products.

For Students:

- Learn how the lungs function and diseases that impact your ability to breathe.
- Understand the dangers of nicotine products, vaping, and Juul.
- Discuss alternate stress relievers.

For Adults:

- Learn the facts about young people and nicotine products.
- How to start the conversation with your child about not using nicotine products.
- How you can start your own path toward a healthier lifestyle.

Featuring Nancy Sayegh-Rooney, RN, CTTS:

- Lung Nurse Navigator for Richmond University Medical Center's lung screening program.
- Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist (CTTS).
- Registered nurse for 40 years.



To schedule a presentation:

Contact Nancy at 718-818-2391 or at Nrooney@rumcsi.org.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM CROHN'S DISEASE OR ULCERATIVE COLITIS?



IF SO, HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR A CLINICAL STUDY THAT MAY HELP YOU AND OTHERS.

You may be eligible to take part if you are 16 to 80 years old, and:

- ▶ Were diagnosed with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis at least 3 months ago.
- ▶ Currently experience moderate-to-severe symptoms.
- ▶ At least one medication has not worked for you.



Richmond University
Medical Center
Department of Clinical Research

For more information and to enroll, call 718-818-2707 or visit rumcsi.org/crohnsdiseasestudy

Richmond University Medical Center

SAVE THE DATE — CME ACTIVITY

(earn up to 20 credits)

SPRING 2019 UPDATE IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

UPDATES ON: Cardiology, Critical Care Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology,
Hematology/Oncology, and much more



MAY 20 — 24, 2019 • 8:00AM — 1:00PM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JENNIFER DOMINGUEZ AT 718-818-3106

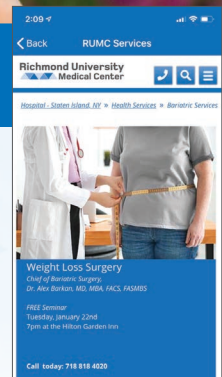
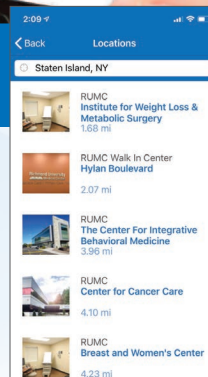
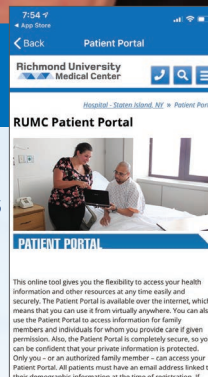
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Available in
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and Google Play



INTRODUCING RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER'S NEW APP

- ✓ Quick access to all medical services
- ✓ Find a physician for your health care needs
- ✓ Review your medical records through our secure Patient Portal
- ✓ Pay your bill
- ✓ Locate the RUMC facility closest to you
- ✓ Receive news and updates



844-934-CARE

355 Bard Ave., Staten Island, NY 10310

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