

# CHRONICLE

## **Richmond University Gala to Celebrate Recent Successes with A New Orleans Flavor**

Richmond University Medical Center held its 12th annual gala on Saturday, November 3rd at the Hilton Garden Inn. This year's theme was "A New Orleans Celebration." Almost 600 people attended the event which featured New Orleans style cuisine, music, and a mardi gras atmosphere. This year's honorees were John and Debra Santora and the Richmond University Medical Center's cardiac physicians.



## From the President & CEO: Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D, FACHE, LNHA



As we usher in 2019, I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday to you and your families. May the coming year be full of promise and achievement.

For our medical center, 2019 promises to be one of exciting growth. Behind the hospital we have started construction of a new parking lot that will provide over 220 new spaces for employees. Estimated to be completed by the

end of January, the new lot will be accessible only by hospital ID. In addition to the improved convenience and safety for our staff, this new parking lot will take cars off streets as we continue to be good neighbors with our surrounding community.

The parking lot in many ways is the kick off of major construction and campus wide development. We will also begin construction of our new 30,000 square foot emergency department in 2019. Private treatment rooms, expanded trauma bays, a larger waiting area, new sections for pediatrics and intensive care will all be part of the future of emergency care at RUMC. Also exciting is the construction and development of new surgical suites and perioperative support space. We estimate construction will take 24 months to complete.

We will also begin construction of a new co-generation plant. Our new plant will provide the hospital with its own electricity, making us self-sustaining and more environmentally friendly.

Lastly, our medical center is the only hospital on Staten Island located outside of a flood zone. We need to be at full operating capacity even in the most dire of situations. Thanks to support from FEMA, over the next year or so we will be replacing the windows campus wide to make them resistant to hurricane strength winds while also modernizing our parking lots with a new drainage system to prevent flooding.

It's a great time to be part of the RUMC family. Remember the Power of One-you make a difference!

## Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

Thank you all for your special care of my daughter. You are all treasures and I am so blessed to have had you all care for her. You truly are the best nurse team on Staten Island. I know we will see you all again, though I hope not too soon! Diane and Maryanne, Karen, Shyni, Kathy, Maria, Danielle, Alfred, Roseanne, Dil, and wonderful Beth Ann. You are all the best! Thank you!

*The Farley Family*

A while back I was faced with having the dreaded mammogram. I find them quite uncomfortable and painful. However, I want you to

know that the technician, Aretha Akohia was very gentle with me and so entertaining during the process that it was over before I realized. I am so grateful to her.

*Sr. MaryAnn*

My mother was discharged from RUMC in October. She was admitted with AFIB and difficulty breathing. Every family member only wants the best for their loved ones, and we were lucky enough to cross paths with Bogdan Rajacic, RN.

I could actually feel this man's love as he cared for my mother. He was born to be a nurse. He was born

with that compassion and care I talked about that no institution can build. It is innate and cannot be taught.

As we go through life we become jaded and are quick to find fault, perhaps that is innate also. It was nice, for a change, to come across a man who stands above all those around him. I feel Bogdan Rajacic, RN needs to be recognized for outstanding care and putting forth, for RUMC, its best possible "face" in the eyes of the public. Bogdan Rajacic is a nurse myself and my family will never forget.

*James J.*

## Turquoise Takeover and Shining a Light on Lung Cancer



Richmond University Medical Center recognized November as lung cancer awareness month with a series of events on November 5th and November 6th. In addition to a bake sale that was held in the cafeteria, where proceeds went to supporting the American Lung Association, the hospital hosted “Turquoise Takeover,” where a ceremony and a moment of silence was held for those who have succumbed to lung cancer. Information about lung cancer prevention, tobacco cessation, and the importance of lung screenings was available from national and local organizations including the American Lung Association, the Lung Cancer Alliance, and Tobacco Free Staten Island. Physicians from the Medical Center also provided free pulmonary function testing to measure a person’s lung capacity.

## Richmond University Medical Center Salutes Veterans

On November 15th, Richmond University Medical Center was at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn for the 2018 Salute to Veterans. On behalf of the entire board of trustees and staff to all vets: thank you for your service!



## Chili Cook-Off Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Richmond University Medical Center Chili Cook Off Contest!

**1st Place – Debbie Rodriguez, Oncology Department**

**2nd Place – Anika Trujillo, Facilities Department**

**3rd Place – Sarah Lotito, Finance Department**



## Richmond University Medical Center

### 2018 Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey



**Please participate! Provide your feedback!**

**Pizza lunch provided to departments with the highest participation...while they last!**

**Employees with RUMC Email:** An email and link to the survey has been sent to your RUMC email.

**Employees without RUMC email:** An access code and generic link has been provided to your manager.

**The survey will remain open until December 12th.**

**Please Remember: Individual responses will not be shared with RUMC Management.**

**For more information, contact Human Resources at ext. 2438**

RUMC Join Us!

EMPLOYEE  
EVENTS

COME  
TOGETHER

FUN  
FOOD  
& FRIENDS



SOUP COOK-OFF

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24  
11am–1pm

Cheer on your department as they show off their culinary talents in the RUMC Soup Cook-Off. Sign up below and bring in your perfect pot of soup for judging on January 24. Event takes place in the RUMC Cafeteria.

**REGISTER FOR THE FUN**

[www.rumcsi.org/Soup](http://www.rumcsi.org/Soup)

Richmond University  
Medical Center

VITAL  
Our Campaign to Transform Emergency Care

# NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!



"I lost 30 pounds and lowered my triglycerides, cholesterol, and A1C in six months as a result of the National Diabetes Prevention Program and Lifestyle Coach Theresa. Saying thank, you doesn't even begin to express the appreciation and gratitude I have for this program."  
—Jeannine Ciccoppo

## FREE National Diabetes Prevention Program

217 ROSE AVENUE (NEW DORP), STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306  
Tuesdays beginning January 15 from 6:30pm through 7:30pm.  
The program runs every Tuesday for four months. Monthly maintenance sessions will follow.

**Workshop Topics:**

1. Core principles of getting active and increasing physical activity.
2. Core principles of healthy eating, tracking food, and caloric balance.
3. How to reduce and deal with stress.
4. How to stay motivated.

**RSVP:**  
Certified Lifestyle Coach of the National Diabetes Prevention Program  
Theresa A. Catania 718-818-1274

**Richmond University Medical Center**

## Lunch and Learn with Nancy Sayegh-Rooney, RN, CTTS

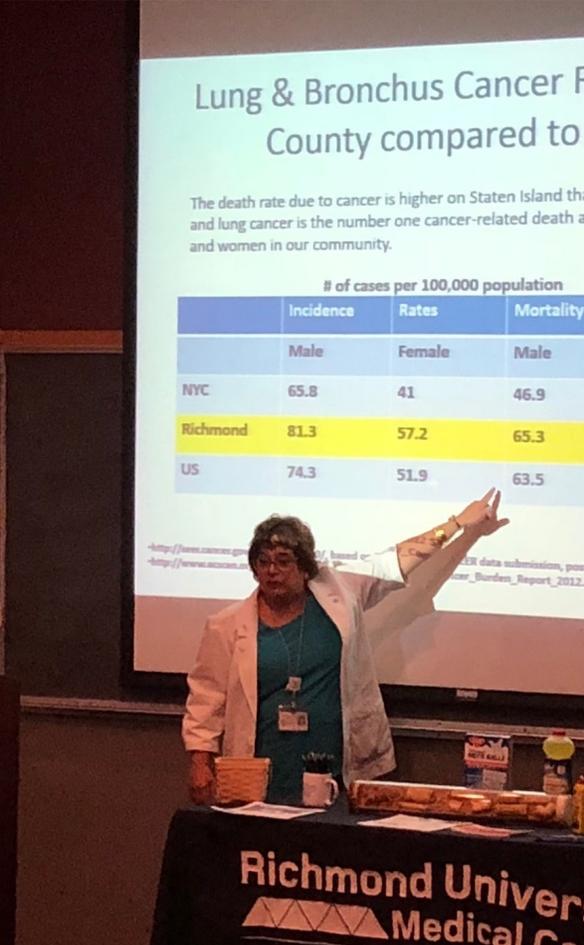
Our latest Lunch and Learn, held on November 7th, featured our Lung Nurse Navigator Nancy Sayegh-Rooney, RN. Nancy explained that lung cancer, if detected early, is treatable and encourages all smokers and former smokers to get a screening. Nancy's presentation included a history lesson on the tobacco industry and a discussion on tobacco cessation programs in great detail. Whether you are interested in a lung screening or to learn more about the tobacco dependence programs we offer here at Richmond University Medical Center, Nancy is always available at 718-818-2391.

### Lung & Bronchus Cancer R County compared to

The death rate due to cancer is higher on Staten Island than in any other county and lung cancer is the number one cancer-related death among men and women in our community.

	# of cases per 100,000 population		
	Incidence	Rates	Mortality
	Male	Female	Male
NYC	65.8	41	46.9
Richmond	81.3	57.2	65.3
US	74.3	51.9	63.5

—http://www.cancer.gov/... based on... data submission, post...  
—http://www.acosm... Burden\_Report\_2012.p



## RUMC CFO Interviewed

American Health Leader Magazine interviewed RUMC VP and Chief Financial Officer Joseph Saporito. "How Richmond University Medical Center Learned from Its Past to Grow for Its Future" is on their website: <https://bit.ly/2OqnJe7>.



## November New Hires: *Welcome to RUMC!*

Briana Mangia, Nursing Assistant \* Richard Mastropolo, RN \* Edward Letendre, RN  
Eva Dovie Entero, RN \* Lina Ostrovsky, DRT \* Bernice Fynn, Nursing Assistant  
Kirolos Abdelsayed, Security Guard \* Kimberly Smith, ACO Care Coordinator  
Carmine Martino, Security Guard \* Judith Morales, Addiction Recovery Peer Advocate  
Michael Pannunzio, Desktop Analyst, \* Samuel Velez, Security Guard \* Maureen Carrington, Supervisor  
Danielle Ivanicki, Admin Assistant \* Wei Zeng, Vascular Tech \* John Flanagan, Supervisor  
Oscar Chan, Pharmacy Tech \* Luigi Mejia, Lab Tech \* Nicholas Galeno, Compliance Coordinator  
Karen Bush, Administrative Assistant \* Costas Zaharakis, Registrar \* Dianna Jones, RN  
Katrina Moore, MHT \* Diozy Joseph, Social Worker \* Danielle Moulton, MHT



**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**  
**Congratulations to Brandon Winfield**  
**Radiology Transporter**

## Holiday Turkey Giveaway

On Nov. 19th RUMC employees were treated to a big surprise: all staff names were entered into a raffle drawing and 50 employees won a FREE Thanksgiving turkey! Congrats to all of the winners!

Photo (l-r): VP of Human Resources Ron Musselwhite, Esq.; Aneela Jabeen, HIMS; Chief Nurse Officer & COO Rosemarie Stazzone, RN, MS, CNE; President & CEO Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE, LNHA; Assistant Nurse Manager Peri Op/OR Carmen Arocho, RN; Shannon Giovanniello, Antepartum; and Farbah Nyagua, HIMS.



### Happenings-In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)

- ⇒ Richmond University Medical Center was the recipient of a \$5,000 check donated to the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) by members of Elks Lodge #841 in Eltingville. The donation was a way of giving back for one lodge member, Helen Fontanarosa. Her grandson, Syris was born in 2014 over two months premature and weighing only 2 pounds, 14 ounces. Syris spent 2 months in RUMC's NICU before going home. Today, he is a few months shy of being a healthy 5-year-old boy. RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE accepted the donation on behalf of the NICU and pediatric staff.
- ⇒ Richmond University Medical Center was on hand at the NYC Marathon to provide medical support to the thousands of runners from around the world. Staffing the medical services tent was Calli Carnavas Emergency Department CIM and PA student at Wagner College; Carlee King emergency department RN; Angie King emergency department RN; Nakisha Maisonet emergency department RN; and Harry Kopolovich emergency department attending and chairman.
- ⇒ Congrats Ugochi Abazie RN, who recently completed her DNP in Behavioral Health Nursing.

- ⇒ On November 12th Richmond University Medical Center hosted a symposium "What's New In Multiple Sclerosis." Physicians, medical students, families, and people living with MS attended. A series of speakers discussed various topics associated with MS, beginning with Dr. Allan B. Perel who organized the symposium. Dr. Perel provided the latest medical news and updates on research and treatments aimed at curbing the effects of MS. He was followed by Susan Perel who spoke about living with MS, and Dr. Jack D'Angelo who discussed the use of medical cannabis in the treatment of MS.
- ⇒ To our very own Rich Ortiz who just finished his MSN - we wish him the best as he moves on for his DNP next month. In addition, Rich recently received the SANE-A certification from the International Association of Nursing as well as the NYSDOH certification as a Forensic Nurse Examiner and Instructional Preceptor for Forensic Nurse candidates. Rich is the only nationally certified SANE and the only pediatric certified SANE on Staten Island.
- ⇒ Kudos to our own Tatyana Breja RN for obtaining her CEN designation from the Emergency Nurses Association!!



The Richmond University Medical Center Elves will be sponsoring the ADOPT-A-FAMILY program again this year. The program will focus on the RUMC families that utilize our Clinics and to the needy families in our community. Any department, group of people or person who wish to adopt a family, or make a contribution towards the program, should contact Jennifer Dominguez at (718) 818-3106.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



LET US HELP YOU KEEP YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

# KICK THE HABIT!

FREE 5 WEEK SMOKING CESSATION COURSE  
JANUARY 2019: 2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD AND 30TH



Richmond University Medical Center's Lung Nurse Navigator Nancy Rooney, RN, CTTS, will be hosting a free 5 week course for tobacco dependence to help you keep your new year's resolution and kick the habit. Sessions will be January 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 6pm - 7pm. Seats are limited. Participants will receive patches on completion.

Call (718) 818-2391 for more information or to register.  
Sessions will be held in the Allan Weissglass Pavilion, located in the Main Lobby.

**Richmond University  
Medical Center**

355 BARD AVENUE STATEN ISLAND, NY 10310

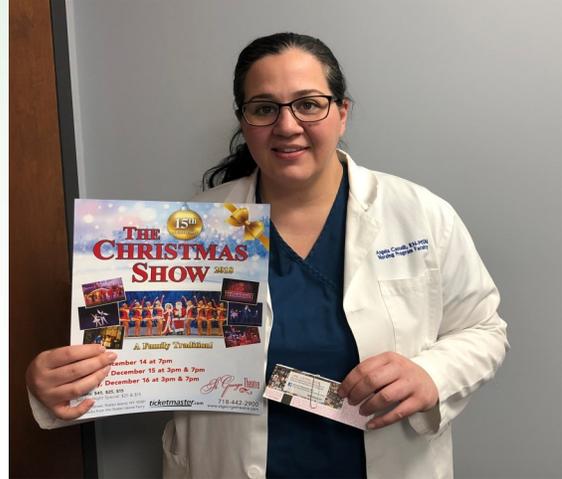
## Movember Raises Awareness

The medical center's IT and Security Departments participated in a Movember campaign to raise money for men's health issues. The annual event involves the growing of moustaches during November to raise awareness of issues such as prostate cancer and men's suicide. Over \$1,500 was raised.



## St. George Theatre Raffle Winner

The winner of the St. George Theatre holiday show ticket raffle was Angela Castelli, RN MSN. Angela has won 4 tickets to the show. Additional raffles will be held in the coming months. Our thanks to the St. George Theatre for their partnership with our medical center.



## Monthly Employee Photo Contest!

**Bimini Bahamas**  
**Dr. Joel Idowu**

## Keep sending us those photos!

### Are you following us on Social Media?



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](mailto:Lscanni@rumcsi.org).