

Richmond University Medical Center

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Gamblers Treatment Program Unveils New Headquarters



New York State Assembly Members Michael Reilly (left) and Charles Fall (center) help officially open the new headquarters for the Gamblers Treatment Program at 1130 South Avenue.

Launched in 1982 as one of three founding outpatient gambling treatment programs in New York State, the Gamblers Treatment Program at Richmond University Medical Center uses a range of cognitive and behavioral therapies to help free problem gamblers from the throes of their addiction and support them in their pursuit of a happier and healthier life. According to the New York Council on Problem Gambling, as many as 5,000 residents of Staten Island may suffer from problem gambling.

On November 8, hospital staff, administration, local leaders, the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) officially opened the Gamblers Treatment Program at its new location in The Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine, located at 1130 South Avenue. Special guests included Lesley Puryear, New York City regional coordinator for OASAS, New York State Assembly Member Charles Fall, New York State Assembly Member Michael Reilly, and Staten Island Borough President James Oddo's health director, Dr. Ginny Mantello.

Offering both inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, The Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine opened in 2017 and serves the Staten Island community with evaluation and referral services as well as substance abuse treatment and other specialized programs. Richmond University Medical Center is the leading provider of behavioral health services on Staten Island for children, adolescents, and adults.



The Gamblers Treatment program is now located within The Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine.

*A Publication for Employees, Physicians, Trustees, and Volunteers of
Richmond University Medical Center*

From the President & CEO

Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE



Last month I talked about our recently completed community health needs assessment and how this assessment will guide our efforts to improve health outcomes in our community. The assessment identified several priority needs, one of which was prevention of nicotine use. I shared with you in my letter last month the steps our hospital will take to address this need.

Another priority area we will be focusing on is helping to prevent chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. According to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the premature death rate

for the north shore of Staten Island exceeds the death rate for Staten Island and New York City overall. Cancer and heart disease are the leading causes of premature death.

We have taken a multifaceted approach to combat these diseases by providing direct access to health care for residents across Staten Island, especially in north shore communities where access is limited. To do this, we will increase our free community screening events

and educational forums

to raise awareness of

chronic diseases and their associated risk factors. Outreach will include attendance at community events, health forums, and having our trained medical experts provide presentations and information that can save lives. Screening results will be provided almost immediately to participants so that any abnormalities are addressed as quickly as possible. This will be a joint effort involving our oncology department, public relations and marketing, cardiology, and the trained lifestyle coaching team that leads our National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP).

We will also strengthen our breast health patient navigator program to boost access to mammography

and to support women by improving access to care. Our state-of-the-art, comprehensive Breast and Women's Center was built for this purpose: to provide dedicated imaging and clinical services at one location so men and women could receive care for breast cancer and breast disease, including treatment of benign conditions.

Lastly, we will use our patient portals and EMR to directly contact our patients and send reminders about screenings and follow-up exams so that they can continue to manage chronic conditions they may have. The reminders may also serve as motivation to go for screenings to prevent the onset of conditions, if a person is considered high risk as a result of identified risk factors.

I will discuss additional priority needs we will be addressing in next month's Chronicle. For now, I want to close by once again expressing my continued thanks for your dedication and commitment to our patients, your colleagues, and our hospital. Often our patients say that when they come here, they feel like they are treated as family. That feeling begins with the care and compassion each of you brings with you every time you walk through the door. You are an inspiration to us all! Happy holidays to you and your families!

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

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

Patient Letters

I am writing about one of your employees, Brenda Pavia. I had a procedure on Friday, October 18, in the Endo Department and the night before I injured my left knee. I was in pain and so uncomfortable, I almost canceled my appointment. Brenda saw that I was in pain and came right over to me. She offered me a pillow to place under my knee to ease the pain. She noticed I was cold and came back with a heated blanket. She is very thoughtful and kind and I am very grateful for her. She made me comfortable, which helped me get through the procedure. I just thought you should know how kind and considerate your staff is to their patients.

Sincerely,
Lisa Roberts

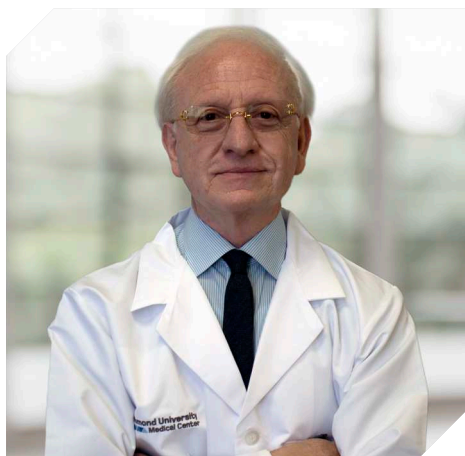
Dr. Poliseno,

What can we say that would ever be adequate enough to describe how we feel about you? We are forever grateful for you. Without you, the outcome would have been so different. You and your staff are truly amazing. We are in debt to all of you! Thank you!

Love,

The Presti family

Bringing New Hope to High Risk Pregnancies



Michael Cabbad, MD, chair of the OB/GYN department

For many of the estimated six million women who get pregnant each year, their pregnancies are healthy experiences filled with the routine ups and downs associated with the miracle of conception. But according to the National Institutes of Health, some women experience a high-risk pregnancy, or one that threatens the health or life of the mother or her fetus, requiring specialized care from highly skilled medical practitioners trained to treat these situations.

“The term ‘high-risk pregnancy’ can pertain to two realms—either the mother’s condition or the fetus’ condition,” shared Dr. Michael Cabbad, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Cabbad is board certified in obstetrics and

gynecology as well as maternal-fetal medicine.

According to Dr. Cabbad, a number of medical conditions, either pre-existing or developed during a pregnancy, can elevate a mother’s potential for poor outcomes. Among these are excess weight, genetic predispositions to such disorders as sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, hypertension, and diabetes. “High-risk pregnancies can also be due to other underlying diseases that worsen as the patient gets older as well as by stress or emotional and/or psychiatric conditions,” Cabbad said.

“A number of fetal conditions can create a high-risk pregnancy as well, such as placental disorders like placenta previa, in which the placenta lies low in the uterus and partially or completely covers the cervix, as well as pregnancies in which the umbilical cord precedes the baby’s head, or in multiple birth situations where two fetuses share the same placenta,” Cabbad said. “Genetic factors associated with the age of the mother and chromosomal issues resulting in such conditions as Down syndrome and trisomies can also be problematic,” he said.

In addition to his expertise in treating the more common high-risk pregnancy conditions, Dr. Cabbad is also the first physician on Staten Island capable of performing a transabdominal cerclage,

or TAC, to prevent pregnancy loss due to cervical weakness. According to Dr. Cabbad, “TAC is a highly specialized procedure to address a condition known as cervical insufficiency, which can lead women to experience pregnancy losses in their second trimester,” he said. As a result of this condition, which typically occurs between a woman’s 13th and 24th to 26th week of gestation, “The cervix opens and allows delivery of the child spontaneously without contractions or labor at a point only just halfway through the pregnancy, when babies are not fully developed.”

“Through the TAC procedure, a suture is placed at the highest level of the cervix and helps prolong the pregnancy and take the baby to a point of viability and beyond,” Cabbad said. Based on his research and his own experience performing the procedure more than 50 times over the last two decades, “TAC is highly successful, with a nearly 90 percent success rate. Overall, TAC procedures have given women the children they could not otherwise have had, fulfilling the dreams of many to have families,” concluded Dr. Cabbad.

Richmond University Medical Center’s Obstetrics and Gynecology Department can be reached at (718) 818-3287 or by visiting rumcsi.org/obstetricsandgynecology.

This article can be found on SILive.com and was written by Susan Bloom.

Richmond University Medical Center Becomes Advanced Primary Stroke Center

Less than six months after launching its new mechanical thrombectomy sub-specialty program to treat stroke victims, Richmond University Medical Center has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and the American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Advanced Primary Stroke Center certification. This marks the first time the medical center has achieved this certification in its history.

The hospital underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review to achieve certification. During the visit, a team of commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards including program management, assisting patients with self-management, and delivering and facilitating clinical care. Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts, and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews while at the hospital.

"Every second counts when a person suffers a stroke because as brain cells die, a person can lose functions such as memory or muscle control, depending on which area of the brain is affected," medical center president and chief executive officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said. "Making sure we

have the appropriate staff and procedures in place throughout the entire course of care when a stroke is diagnosed means more positive outcomes. This certification is confirmation that the most advanced stroke care treatment is being provided at our hospital."

Richmond University Medical Center is a New York State designated stroke center in recognition of its comprehensive care services available to treat even the most severe stroke patients. The medical center has also been recognized and accredited by several national organizations in past years for its advanced stroke care, including the Get with the Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association in consecutive years.

Continuing its place at the forefront of elite stroke care, earlier this year Richmond University Medical Center added mechanical thrombectomy as a sub-specialty. A mechanical thrombectomy is a surgical procedure that involves a special device threaded



**The Joint
Commission**



**American Heart
Association**
**American Stroke
Association**

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

Meets standards for

Primary Stroke Center

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 a week after establishing the procedure, medical center physicians saved the life of a 70-year-old Staten Island resident who suffered a stroke. She arrived with paralysis on her right side. However, after undergoing the thrombectomy procedure less than two hours after her arrival, she regained full use of her extremities and is leading a fully productive life.

Nurses Receive City Certification to Treat Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivors

Six of Richmond University Medical Center's Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) nurses completed training recently to better help our community partners and improve the quality of care delivered to this vulnerable population. Provided by the New York City Alliance, the two day in-person training focused on assessment, evaluation, treatment, and evidence collection for pediatric survivors of sexual assault. Before each nurse could receive certification, they also had to complete a 40-hour online component.



Emergency department nurses who completed training in aiding survivors of pediatric sexual assault were Esther Rose, Melany Neibles, Gina Dellacroce, Annie Georgekutty, Julissa Salazar, and Isa-Ngozi Shoneyin.

NYS Department of Health Tours Hospital, Outpatient Sites



Pietro Carpenito, MD; former New York State Senator Kemp Hannon; Rosemarie Stazzone, RN, MSN, COO/CNO; Tracey Raleigh, NYS DOH; Kathleen McCarthy, NYS DOH; Ryan Vandervoort, NYS DOH; Jason Corvino, NYS DOH; Richard Salhany, MBA, FACHE; and Joel Udowu, MD.

Richmond University Medical Center recently had the opportunity to take officials from the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) on a tour of the medical center and its outpatient facilities. The tour included an overview of the new emergency department construction site, discussion of the new operating suites planned for the new structure, as well as the status of the current operating suites.

“We wanted to show them that we have a strategic vision to develop the

operating rooms of the future in tandem with the emergency department construction project,” executive vice president, Pietro Carpenito, MD, said.

The tour extended to off-site locations including the Center for Cancer Care and the Breast and Women’s Center. “These sites were created to address the greatest health care needs of the community,” president of Richmond Health Network and chief administration officer, Richard Salhany, MBA, FACHE, said. “Our

borough’s cancer rates exceed the other boroughs in New York City.”

The tour also included the Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine where the delegation saw how the medical center has transformed several community behavioral health programs into a modern and beautiful environment and how the medical staff has integrated behavioral health treatment with primary care services.

Richmond University Medical Center’s Diabetes Prevention Program Receives CDC Recognition



Brittany Langan, MSW, director, ambulatory performance improvement; Crocifissa Giordano, RN, ACO care coordinator; Gail DeGannes-Hoyte, RN, MSN, certified diabetes educator; Vincenza Pearl, RN, BSN, ACO care coordinator; and Jasmin Danso, MS, director, ACO and population health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recognized Richmond University Medical Center’s National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) for its achievements in assisting people diagnosed with diabetes. To

receive the recognition, the NDPP staff hosted a year-long evidence-based lifestyle change program, providing documentation and reporting throughout the year. They also met targets in areas such as average weight

loss of participants and attendance at sessions. The programs were provided at the main hospital and at Richmond Health Network locations on Staten Island. Additional NDPP programs are scheduled to start in early 2020.

November New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Muhammad Anees, *Clinical Lab Tech*
Joshua Bibbins, *Building Service Worker*
Diamonasia Brown, *Medical Assistant*
Michele Campbell, *Sr PA*
Heather Chappell, *Pharmacy Tech*
Jamie Doyle, *EEG/EKG Tech*
Karina Garcia, *Assistant Teacher*
Kristen Gatto, *RN*
Annita Hardiing-Morgan, *Nursing Assistant*
Lucille Howe, *Medical Assistant*
MarieElena Iervolino, *Unit Clerk*
Christopher Johnson, *Nursing Assistant*
Angela Kerr, *MD*
Elina Kupsin, *Documentation Specialist*
Christopher Lisi, *MD*
James LoDolce, *Radiology Tech*

Samantha Migliaccio, *Medical Assistant*
Joseph Milano, *Sr, Lead HVAC Mechanic*
Brennan O'Neill, *Custodian*
Elvira Pascana, *Physical Therapist*
Vishally Persaud, *Nursing Assistant*
Amber Santiago, *Peer Advocate*
Mirdula Sharma, *Hospitalist*
Paige Ashley Smith, *Unit Clerk*
Floriana Stemplach, *Medical Assistant*
Annie Tenantitla, *Clerk*
Wilma Thomson, *Pharmacy Tech*
Leticia Torres, *Office Manager*
Gjunere Velu, *RN*
Eugene Vladimirskiy, *Paramedic*
Stephanie Wolf, *Unit Clerk*



TJC Readiness

WASH YOUR HANDS

The Joint Commission will now issue a citation to healthcare organizations if during on-site visits surveyors witness an employee fail to follow correct hand hygiene guidelines.

The change, which went into effect Jan. 1, is intended to improve healthcare workers' compliance with proper hand washing.

A surveyor will now issue a requirement for improvement if he or she witnesses a healthcare worker fail to properly wash their hands before or after engaging with a patient. A requirement for improvement by the Joint Commission requires the organization to submit a plan detailing how they will resolve the issue. The Commission follows up with the organization to ensure the correction plan has been implemented.

Richmond University Medical Center Team Aids Runners at NYC Marathon



Over 100 volunteer medical professionals from RUMC were on hand, including podiatrists, physical therapists, nurses, and residents in emergency medicine.

As over 52,000 runners from around the world raced through the streets of New York City in the 49th annual New York City Marathon on November 3, over 100 licensed professionals from Richmond University Medical Center volunteered their time to be on hand at the finish line to assist anyone in need of medical attention following the 26-mile race.

An army of podiatrists, translators, physical therapists, students, nurses, physician assistants, and residents in emergency medicine and surgery

from Richmond University Medical Center treated over 1,500 runners in their tent located just off the finish line in Central Park. The team treated more runners following this year's race than they had the previous year. The team arrived in Manhattan in the early hours on Sunday well in advance of the race start, setting up cots and medical equipment.

"Our staff looks forward to this event every year," chair of emergency medicine, Harry Kopolovich, MD, MBA, FAAEM, FAEMS, said. "It's amazing to

watch so many runners from so many countries participate each year in the marathon. When you take a moment to realize what each person who crosses the finish line has just accomplished, it is truly awe inspiring."

The medical team from Richmond University Medical Center has volunteered at several marathons in the past few years and will be back next year for the 50th running of the marathon.

Meet Our Trustee Tom DelMastro



Tom DelMastro

Tom DelMastro is the chief executive officer of Staten Island Marine Development LLC (SIMD), responsible

for strategic, operational, and financial planning, day-to-day management decisions, and implementing the company's long and short-term plans. SIMD experienced significant success with its pioneering brownfield investment in New York City, the Staten Island Logistics Center, a 676-acre tract in northwest Staten Island on the Arthur Kill waterway.

DelMastro has been involved in the environmental, engineering, and construction business for over 35 years and for the last 20 years has been a key member of the executive management team for companies serving the brownfield remediation and construction business. Prior to joining SIMD, he held positions at

Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC), a global engineering and construction company, and at Tetra Tech RCM and its predecessor companies as executive vice president of construction management, executive vice president, and chief financial officer. He also spent three years with AMEC Earth and Environmental as the executive vice president and chief financial officer.

DelMastro received his BS in civil engineering from Polytechnic University and his MBA in finance from St. John's University. He and his wife Linda reside in Staten Island. They have five children and four grandchildren.

“Shine A Light” Ceremony Remembers Lung Cancer Victims



Lung cancer survivors Barbara Porto (left) and Elizabeth Hayes (right) join leadership and physicians in a moment of silence for those lost to lung cancer.

Lung cancer survivors, hospital staff, and family members of people lost to lung cancer gathered in the main lobby on November 18 to mark national Lung Cancer Awareness month with a special “Shine A Light” ceremony.

Turquoise is the official color of Lung Cancer Awareness month, so as the light dimmed those gathered lit turquoise flashlights. A moment of silence was held to remember family and friends who have been lost to one of the most deadly forms of cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, it is estimated that this year over 228,000 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed and more than 142,600 people will die from lung cancer.

In Staten Island, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reports the premature death rate for the north shore of Staten Island exceeds the

death rate for the rest of Staten Island and New York City overall. Cancer and heart disease are the leading causes of premature death, with smoking being a significant contributor. Among current and former adult smokers in Staten Island, over 64 percent reported they started smoking before the age of 18, compared to 52 percent of adults across New York City. The number of Staten Island teens who smoke is greater than any other borough, with 1 in 5 teen smokers smoking a pack or more a day and nearly 1 in 4 teens using e-cigarettes.

“We are so grateful to the survivors here with us today,” lung nurse navigator, Nancy Sayegh-Rooney, RN, CTTS, said. “Their courage and strength are inspirations to all of us. They remind us that early detection is critical and that one test can save lives.”



Promoting the importance of lung screenings as part of national Lung Cancer Awareness month were Patricia Hoo, respiratory care manager; Noreen Petersen, lung cancer survivor; Joanne Iulucci, lung transplant recipient; Barbara Porto, lung cancer survivor; Nancy Sayegh-Rooney, RN, CTTS, lung nurse navigator; Katrina Trivelas, lung cancer survivor; Greg Schaivone; Michael Rigney, SR Astra Zeneca; and Erica Masin, American Lung Association.

Honorees of the Month

Congratulations to the following individuals, selected as the Honorees of the Month:

Volunteer of the Month: Lucille Forlenza



Employee of the Month:

Carolyn Saccente, budget manager, finance department, with vice president of human resources, Ron Musselwhite, Esq., and senior vice president and chief financial officer, Joseph Saporito, CPA.

**Richmond University
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