

Richmond University Medical Center

JUNE 2019 • RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER • WWW.RUMCSI.ORG

Celebrating Our Unsung Heroes: The Nurses of Richmond University Medical Center



2019 Nurses of Distinction: Amanda Brooks, Marco Dimatulac, Elyse Harrell, Tammi Nieroda, Yuriy Shishikin, Brianne Whytock, and Marie Winsborrow.

National Nurses Week was May 6 to 12. The purpose of the week is to celebrate the contributions and impact registered nurses have on millions of people annually. There are currently over 4 million registered nurses in the United States and over 680 registered nurses at Richmond University Medical Center. Throughout the week, events were held for our

nurses including chair yoga, a visit from pet therapy dogs, and an ice cream social. The hospital also held its 2019 Nurse of Distinction award ceremony. Eight nurses from different departments were honored for their commitment and dedication. In addition, seven nurses were awarded the Rising Star award in honor of their service over the past year.



2019 Rising Stars: Justin Andrews, Michelle Dorsey, Andrea Finn, Fallon Franco, Robert Mazzarella, Stephanie Mino, and Jehonathan Tetteh.

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



It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since the ribbon was cut on the Center for Cancer Care. Under the expert direction of our board certified director of oncology, Thomas J. Forlenza, MD, the center is providing life-saving treatments to hundreds of Staten Island residents without them having to leave our borough in search of the latest advances available. Why? Because they're already here at our center! Immunotherapy, chemotherapy and the latest in therapeutic radiation; all critical services for the borough with the

highest cancer rates in New York City. When our board of trustees, medical staff, and hospital leadership envisioned the center, we made it a point to recruit the very best in the oncology world. And we did just that. Our board certified chief of hematology and oncology, Max Shulimovich, DO; along with board certified radiation oncologists Marc Adams, MD and Hoon Lee, MD, are making an impact on people's lives every day. Together with Dr. Forlenza, this team of oncologists brings knowledge and expertise developed at some of the leading medical institutions including Saint Barnabas Medical Center, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Maimonides Medical Center, and NYU School of Medicine. Their efforts are being praised by those who matter most, their patients:

"You're getting the most up to date treatment that they recommend, it is personalized care being ordered for you, and it comes from education and

knowledge. The fact that I didn't have to go to New York City for my treatments, I could not have done it, I am too drained."

"They made me feel like I was one of the family. I came in five times a week, every week, and I was treated with love and care by every one of them. I felt at home. I never thought it would be like this."

June 2 was annual National Cancer Survivors Day. To cancer survivors everywhere, we celebrate life with you. On Monday, June 17, we will be hosting a celebration dinner for cancer survivors at LiGreci's Staaten on Forest Avenue. For more information, contact Debbie Rodriguez at 718-818-1084. I hope you will join us.

To everyone at the Center for Cancer Care, congratulations on your first anniversary and thank you for providing world class cancer care right here on Staten Island.

Remember the Power of One – You Make a Difference!

Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

Dear Dr. Messina,

Alesse and I would like to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to you and the staff of Richmond University Medical Center for the expert and thoughtful care you provided my daughter Naila during her recent hospitalization. You helped us get through one of the most frightening experiences a parent can have, when a child falls ill.

We are so grateful to have Naila back home with a smile on her face. Medical care is so much more than just running tests or prescribing medication, it is recognizing the patient is part of a family, and helping loved ones through the crisis is an important part of the treatment process.

Thank you again on behalf of our family, and thank you for your service helping

keep Staten Islanders healthy.

Sincerely,
— Assembly member Charles D. Fall

I wanted to send an email to express my gratitude to everyone who took care of me. I know I left out some of the amazing staff as well, I unfortunately couldn't find Vincent the nurse intern in my address book nor do I know the name of the wonderful ladies that checked me into the ED. With that being said, THANK YOU ALL!

I feel a lot better, was taken care of like family, and had a wonderful experience. Check in was a breeze, I could feel the concern from everyone, and I appreciate it.

Special thanks to Dr. Giaimo for believing me and checking up on me! Mahesh found the appendix in no time! I'd expect

nothing less.

Dr. Kay, these scars are almost invisible, and I felt better immediately. I only took one Tylenol during the post-op period.

Dr. Mantello praised my stoicism, for which I am flattered. Dr. Kikkeri got Dr. Kay on board immediately which allowed me to be seen so quickly. The ED staff, Dr. Varughese, check in, nursing, all phenomenal.

Special, Special, Special thanks to the PACU nurses (Theresa, God bless you). They took care of me like a baby. And Bibs was there just in case I died unexpectedly... to say a prayer. Joseph stepped up to cover a bunch of my shifts for me, for which I will likely not be able to return the favor! Thanks Bibs, you're the best.

— Love you all, Ayub

5th Annual Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Symposium Held



Representing the winning presentation team was Dr. Shahd Hamarsha. Seen here with president and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE.

On May 3, over 20 projects initiated over the past year at Richmond University Medical Center focusing on increasing patient safety and quality of care were the topics of conversation at the hospital's fifth annual patient safety and quality improvement

symposium. While all projects have led to improvements at Richmond University Medical Center, a panel of judges selected a pediatric asthma project that contributed to improved care of young patients as this year's winner.

"Providing quality care goes hand and hand with patient safety," Dr. Mitchell Fogel, chair of medicine and senior vice president at Richmond University Medical Center, said. "Richmond University Medical Center is already recognized nationally as a leader in both these areas, yet we must always seize opportunities to explore new initiatives for improvement."

The winning entry was a collaboration between the hospital and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Utilizing new procedures, over the course of 2018,

there was a successful reduction in the number of pediatric asthma patients requiring elevated care. There were also reductions in pediatric asthma patients needing to return to the hospital for asthma-related care after their initial visit. Decreases were noted in both the 7-day and 30-day time periods. The team will now continue to work with the American Academy of Pediatrics to further assess the results and how they can be maintained, or improved, over the long-term.

The winning team included Dr. Melissa Guillermo, Dr. Shahd Hamarsha, Dr. Neelam Sarwar, Dr. Anita Abure, Dr. Jean Gordon, Dr. Carol Landron, Dr. Amanda Brooks, Dr. Sandra Greco, Dr. Mansoor Khan, Dr. Melissa Grageda, Dr. Harry Kopolovich, and Kim Wagner.

Stroke Care Program Receives First Time National Certification

Long recognized for its role as a leading provider of care for stroke victims, Richmond University Medical Center's reputation was further solidified in May when the hospital 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. Awarded to the hospital for the first time, the certification comes on the heels of the hospital unveiling its new stroke thrombectomy program in early April.

To achieve certification, Joint Commission experts evaluated the medical center's compliance with stroke-related standards and requirements, including program management, the delivery of clinical care, and performance improvement. The comprehensive evaluation

included several departments vital to administering stroke-related care, including neurology, emergency, radiology, laboratory, respiratory, nursing, and rehabilitation.

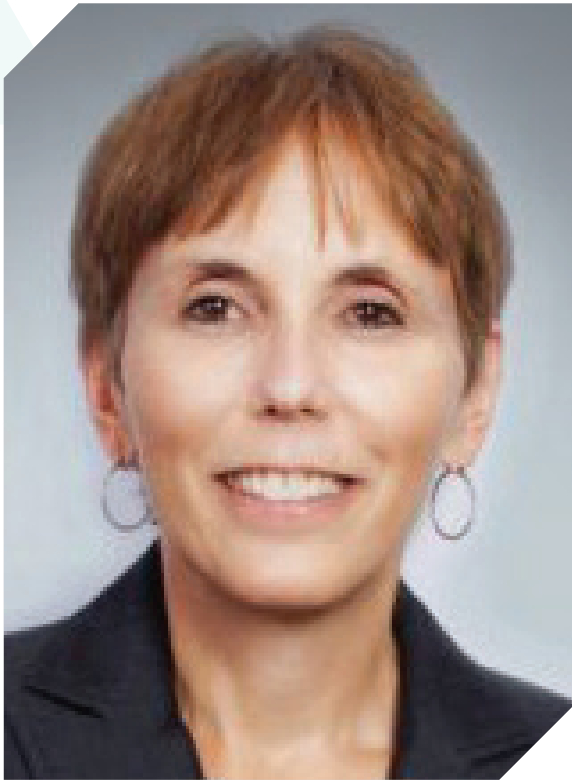
"Effective stroke treatment is a multidisciplinary effort," Allan Perel, MD, RUMC's board certified director of neurology said. "This certification from the joint commission is an extraordinary accomplishment for our stroke program, and will allow RUMC to continue providing the best and most innovative treatment for our patients with stroke."

Established in 2003, Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers is awarded for a two-year period to Joint Commission-accredited acute care hospitals, such as RUMC. Prior to this new certification from The Joint

Commission, the quality of stroke-related care provided at RUMC earned the hospital national accreditation in previous years from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.



Meet our Trustees: Sara Warren Gardner



Sara Warren Gardner is the executive director of the Fund for Public Health in New York (FPHNY), a not-for-profit partner to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Under Ms. Gardner’s leadership, FPHNY develops public-private partnerships that launch and expand programs promoting public health in New York City.

Before joining FPHNY, Sara worked for 19 years at an international health organization called EngenderHealth in a variety of technical and managerial positions. In her last position, she served as the vice president of programs, providing leadership and oversight of EngenderHealth’s global and field programs in New York and 20 countries throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Sara serves on the New York City Health and Mental Hygiene Advisory Council, the executive board of the Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness, and is a founding member on the steering committee of the Tackling Youth Substance Abuse (TYSA) Initiative on Staten Island. Ms. Gardner holds a BA from Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, and a Master of Public Health from New York University.

Annual Jack Sipp Outing A Success, Longtime Supporters Honored



On May 13, over 300 people gathered for the Richmond University Medical Center’s Jack Sipp Golf, Tennis and Bocce Outing at the Richmond County Country Club. Honored at this year’s event were Dr. Chitoor Govindaraj, who received the Stanley Stilwell Memorial Award, and Joseph Torres, who was presented with the Jack Sipp Distinguished Service Award.



Dr. Govindaraj, often referred to as Dr. Raj, graduated from the Madras Med College in India in 1966. Dr. Raj specializes in pulmonary medicine and sleep medicine. A graduate of New York University, Torres, who embarked on a career in financial planning and

asset management 27 years ago, serves clients at Merrill Lynch in Bloomfield. He also serves as the capital campaign chair for our new emergency department and our future surgical and critical care expansion.

RUMC Auxiliary Shows Its Support

The Richmond University Medical Center Auxiliary is composed of a dynamic group of people who devote their free time to making a meaningful

contribution to the hospital. On May 9 the auxiliary hosted an employee ice cream social to express their thanks to employees. Recently, the auxiliary also

purchased baby items needed in the NICU and Newborn Departments for babies born to low-income families.



RUMC Walks For Lung Cancer Awareness

On May 18, Richmond University Medical Center was represented at the annual American Lung Association’s Lung Force Walk. Walking in honor of lost loved ones, the medical center team was led by our lung nurse navigator Nancy Sayegh-Rooney, RN. Our team raised \$3,000 for the American Lung Association Thank you to all who supported the RUMC team!



May New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Catherine Buckley, *Clinical Risk Manager*
 Michael Campbell, *Building Service Worker*
 Pascarella Christian, *Supervisor*
 Edwards Cicely, *Nurse Manager*
 Joseph Cosentino, *EMT*
 Leach Courtney, *Nursing Assistant*
 Stephen DeMaio, *Manager*
 Maureen Harrington, *Clinical Liason*
 Willie Hucherson, *Food Service Worker*
 Francine Hunt Sr, *Clerical Receptionist*
 Gloriane Improta, *Registrar*
 Leone Laura, *RN*
 Hale Lauren, *Nursing Assistant*
 Daniel Machuca, *Paramedic*

Patrick McGinley, *Clerk*
 Brian Morales, *Building Service Worker*
 Alyssa O'Connell, *Medical Assistant*
 Herbert Richardson, *Supervisor*
 Vladimir Romaniv, *PA*
 Galicia Rona, *Registrar*
 Maglio Samantha, *EKG/EEG Tech*
 Josie Santana, *BH Therapist*
 Alyssa Seid, *Medical Assistant*
 Allison Serio, *Ultrasound Tech*
 Fiona Shehaj, *Chief of Women's Cardiology*
 Debra Spagnuolo, *Clerk/Rceptionist*
 George Ulysses, *Building Service Worker*
 Jennifer Velez, *Respiratory Therapist*

43rd Annual Spring Review in Internal Medicine Held

From May 20 to May 24, Richmond University Medical Center hosted their 43rd annual Spring Review in Internal Medicine.

The review was held to familiarize physicians with current concepts and recent advances in the pathogenesis and management of medical disease. The event also provided a review of topics in internal medicine suitable for candidates studying for the internal medicine boards.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's event a success, including vice chairman, department of medicine program director Jay M. Nfonoyim; MD, F.A.C.P; director of cardiology, Richard Grodman, MD, F.A.C.P; and CME coordinator Jennifer Dominguez.



National EMS Week Celebrated



May 19 to May 25 was National EMS Week. On May 21, a barbecue lunch was held to thank our EMS team for all that they do. The dedicated first responders of Richmond University Medical Center provide immediate care during a health crisis. Whether there is an accident or an illness, they work around the clock to make sure care is available quickly. Our thanks to everyone in EMS for their service to the community!



March of Dimes, Wagner HS Provides Support for NICU Families

On May 15, students from Susan Wagner High School, along with their teacher Alice Karazim, joined the March of Dimes and visited our NICU to show their support for the families and the

medical staff. The group provided food for the staff and families who have infants in the unit. Rose Broillet, RN also addressed the students. She was joined by Carmine DeBetta, volunteer

coordinator for the Chain Reaction Youth Council, and Joelle Brancov, senior development manager for the March of Dimes.

Thank You To Our Nurses! We Hope You Enjoyed National Nurses Week!

