

CHRONICLE

Richmond University Medical Center Unveils New Breast and Women's Center

On October 25th, Richmond University Medical Center officially opened its new state-of-the-art, \$3 million Breast and Women's Center, located at 1161 Victory Boulevard in Sunnyside. Over 150 people, including elected officials and community leaders, attended the event.

The new center will provide comprehensive breast care, including the latest, most advanced services such as genetic testing, lumpectomy or breast preserving surgery, nipple-sparing mastectomy, immediate reconstruction for mastectomy, and access to research and clinical trials. The center is under the direction of Tihesha Wilson, MD, FACS, Richmond University Medical Center's new Chief of Breast Surgery (*photo, top right*).

Medical Center President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE along with Board of Trustees Chair Kate Krause Rooney, Esq. praised the new center and Dr. Wilson during the official ribbon cutting ceremony. They were joined by medical center senior administration and dignitaries outside the new building where a pink ribbon was cut to officially open the new center. Among those in attendance were Assembly Member Nicole Malliotakis; Council Member Debi Rose; retired Justice Philip G. Minardo; and Justice Robert J. Gigante. Also attending was Dr. Krishne Urs for whom the building has been named in recognition of his continuing support for Richmond University Medical Center.



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



Let me start by saying on behalf of our medical center's senior administration and board of trustees, a very happy Thanksgiving to all of you and continued health and happiness to you and your families.

On the clinical front, November is lung cancer awareness month. According to the American Lung Association, lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in both men and women in our country.

Over 154,000 Americans are expected to die from lung cancer in 2018, accounting for approximately 25 percent of all cancer deaths. There are approximately 541,000 Americans living today that have been diagnosed with lung cancer at some point in their lives. This year alone, more than 234,000 new cases of lung cancer are expected to be diagnosed, representing about 13 percent of all cancer diagnoses.

A startling fact is that the death rate due to cancer is higher on Staten Island than in New York City overall, and lung cancer is the number one cancer-related death among both men and women in our borough.

In addition to lung cancer awareness month, November is also host to the Great American Smokeout on November 15th. Thousands of

Americans across the country will use this day to take the first step toward quitting smoking. If you are a smoker, use this day as the beginning of your journey to stop smoking, improving your health, and reducing your cancer risk.

At the medical center we are strategically well positioned with our new Center for Cancer Care on South Avenue that is staffed with an exceptional team of dedicated physicians, nurses, and nurse navigators leading our lung screening program, including a certified tobacco trained specialist. If you are a smoker or former smoker; or if you know someone who is, please contact our lung screening program today at 718-818-2391.

Remember the Power of One-you make a difference!

Patient Satisfaction: *A Note of Thanks*

I am writing this letter, which has been forming in my mind for quite a while now, to express my thanks to the staff of RUMC for saving my life. It never occurred to me that the pain in the left side of my abdomen was a ruptured colon. I left work and went home. I should have gone to the hospital right then and there. But I am not a stranger to pain and discomfort. I thought it would pass. I had no idea what trouble I was in.

The pain did not go away and when my brother came home in the early hours, I asked to go to the hospital. By that time I was sweating and feeling cold at the

same time. Once I was in the ER, it did not take long for the staff to realize something was really wrong. Dr. Parks told me that they needed to do exploratory surgery and I signed the consent form without hesitating. I was wheeled up to the OR before the ink was dry. I remember my glasses coming off and the anesthesia mask going on.

I awoke the next day in the ICU, intubated and with about 5 IV drips connected to me. My family was there and I started to communicate via notes. My recollections of my time in the ICU are not very clear. I was in the ICU for about 2 weeks, if my memory serves rightly. I had a

severe infection and was hallucinating, having strange and vivid dreams. It was the toughest time of my life. I felt terrified at times. There was a point when I was wondering if I wanted to live or not. But I was needed by my family, so I had to live. I had lots of help.

I am in a new phase of my life now and a word of thanks is due. I don't remember all of the nurses, doctors, and therapists that helped me, but I would like to thank them all, especially Dr. Feroze Khan and Dr. Parks.

John P.

FREE SEMINAR **WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY** **Richmond University Medical Center**



BEFORE **AFTER**

Kristen, actual patient of Dr. Alex Barkan

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

In Partnership with the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island
Tuesday, November 27 • 7:00pm
To register, call 718-818-4020

J 1466 Manor Road
Staten Island NY 10314

Support for Medical Center's New Emergency Dept.

On October 15th, Fran and Frank Realì presented a \$25,000 check to Richmond University Medical Center to support construction of the hospital's new emergency department. The Realì family founded the Protecting One Young Heart At A Time Foundation, following the death of their son from undiagnosed cardiac disease. The check was presented to Medical Center President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE, (center) at the foundation's annual dinner.



Lunch and Learn with RUMC's New Chief of Breast Surgery

On October 16th, RUMC's new Chief of Breast Surgery, Tihesha Wilson, MD, FACS, discussed breast cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment to over 40 attendees as part of the medical center's monthly Lunch and Learn series.

An experienced oncoplastic breast surgeon, who has practiced for more than 10 years, Dr. Wilson received her Doctor of Medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Wilson completed her general surgery internship and residency at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center. She then went on to pursue both an advanced laparoscopic surgery fellowship and a breast surgical oncology fellowship.

Dr. Wilson will be leading a team of highly trained physicians at the new Breast and Women's Center, located at 1161 Victory Boulevard. To make an appointment, call 718-818-1161.



Employee Appreciation Day

Scenes from the Employee Appreciation Meal held in our cafeteria on September 27th. Once again to all the employees of Richmond University Medical Center—THANK YOU!



Pumpkin Carving Contest Winners

Congratulations to the Trauma Department for winning 1st place. Their department will enjoy a catered lunch. The WIC Department took 2nd place, winning a whimsical autumn wreath.



RUMC
EMPLOYEE
EVENTS
COME
TOGETHER
FUN
FOOD
& FRIENDS

Join Us!



CHILI COOK-OFF
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29
11am-1pm

Get your tastebuds ready for something hot & spicy as our Departments go head to head at the Chili Cook-Off. Sign up below and bring in your perfect pot for judging on November 29th. Event takes place in the RUMC Cafeteria.

REGISTER FOR THE FUN
www.rumcsi.org/Chili

Richmond University
Medical Center

VITAL
Our Campaign to Transform Emergency Care

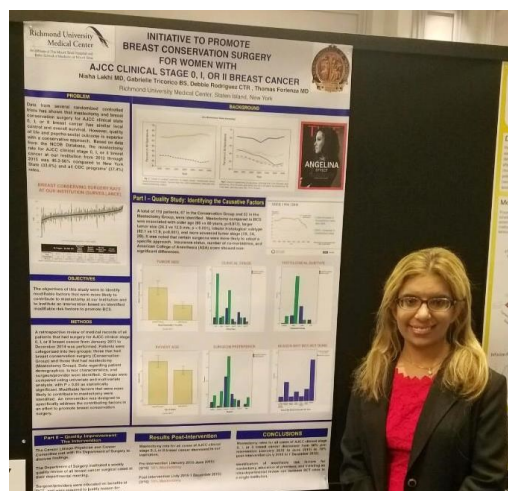
Community Health Hero: Christopher Ruiz

Congratulations to RUMC's Trauma Nursing Director Chris Ruiz, this year's SIEDC Community Health Hero. Chris was presented with his award by President and CEO Daniel Messina, Ph.D., FACHE at the SIEDC Health and Wellness Expo, held on October 3rd.



RUMC Doctor Presents on Reduced Mastectomy Rates

Congratulations to Dr. Nisha A. Lakhi, MD, FACOG. Dr. Lakhi presented in September at the American College of Surgeons (ACS) 2018 Cancer Programs Conference in Chicago. Dr. Lakhi discussed her initiative that successfully reduced mastectomy rates for early stage breast cancer.



RUMC's Jen Marano Completes NYC Marathon

Congratulations to Jen Marano for completing the 2018 New York City Marathon on Sunday, November 4th. Jen finished the 26.2 mile run through all five boroughs with a time of 3:21:26. Way to go Jen!



Trauma Dept. Supports Tunnel to Towers Run

On September 30th the Trauma Department participated in the annual Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers run. Mary Siller-Scullin, Injury Prevention Coordinator at RUMC, is Siller's sister and Treasurer of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Over 30,000 runners participated.



October New Hires: *Welcome to RUMC!*

Jemelin Aranzado, RN

Deborah BonGiovanni, Anesthesia Tech

Yassah Chea, RN

Miland Christian, Clinical Lab Tech

Michael Columbia, Security Guard

Jeanette Donegan, Building Service Worker

Clara Engmann, Hospitalist

Julia Handel, RN

Skivon Hardy, Transporter

Alyssa Ingravallo, RN

Julius Jones, Nursing Assistant

Ariel Kaplunovskiy, Paramedic

Cristina Nardulli, Physician Assistant

Daniel Piscazzi, Paramedic

Padma Reddy, Marketing Sales Rep

Troy Salerno, Paramedic

Josephine Tagliani, Payroll Clerk

Randy Wagman, Clinical Resources Manager



Employee of the Month: **Hannah McKay**



Hannah McKay received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The College of New Jersey. She was hired in Labor & Delivery in September of 2016. On a recent Joint Commission Perinatal Certification survey, she was put to the test when the surveyors randomly selected three of her patients she had cared for over the course of the two day survey. Her unrehearsed, natural ability to communicate standards and policy through practice was obvious to all. The surveyor complimented the L&D leadership for recruiting such a strong novice. Hannah has the desire and the qualities to influence and shape future registered nurses.

Hannah was nominated by AVP, Women's & Children's Nursing Education, Victoria Orleman, MSN, RNC-OB, ISCLS.

Happenings-In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)

- ⇒The Cancer Committee of Richmond University Medical Center kicked off their September meeting with a celebratory breakfast in recognition of the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer awarding our cancer program a Three-Year Accreditation with Commendations. 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.
- ⇒Maria Carter from the "Hats and Peas, Inc." organization visited our Labor & Delivery unit on October 12th. The organization made a thoughtful donation of handmade items including 15 hat and blanket sets, 15 extra hats, and 4 bereavement sets. The items were all hand-made and wrapped by the group looking to "pay it forward in hats and blankets."
- ⇒The breast cancer bake sale, held in the cafeteria on October 19th, raised over \$500 towards the fight against breast cancer. Thank you to Breast Nurse Navigator Marie Kimball, RN for her successful event!



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.

RUMC Co-Sponsors Annual Health & Wellness Expo

The SIEDC Health and Wellness Expo, was held Wednesday, October 3rd at the Hilton Garden Inn. Thank you to the doctors and staff of Richmond University Medical Center who came out and contributed their time for screenings and awareness.

In addition to providing health care information to attendees, several departments provided free screenings. Over 100 people were screened throughout the day.



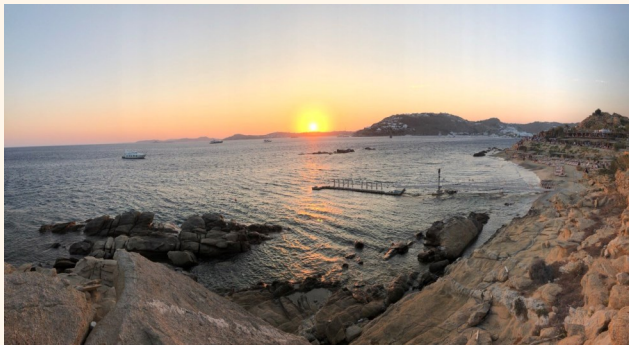
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

It was a blustery day, but on Sunday, October 21st Richmond University Medical Center was proud to participate in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Our new Chief of Breast Surgery, Tihesha Wilson, MD, FACS was a featured speaker at the kick-off festivities. Thank you to our staff who donated their time to work our information table and walk behind the RUMC banner.

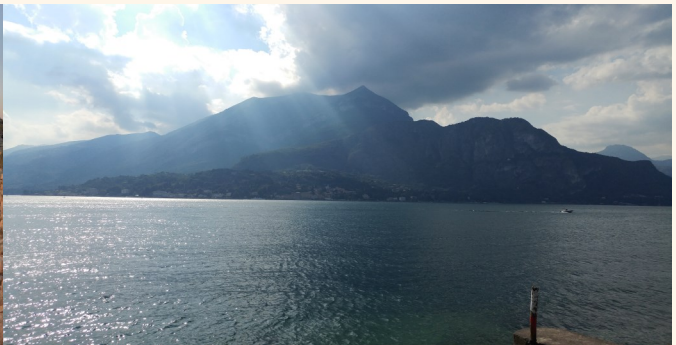


Monthly Employee Photo Contest!

Georgia Ferrara, Mykonos, Greece



Peter Dinolfo, Lake Cuomo, Italy



Are you following us
on Social Media?



Keep sending us those photos!

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 news-worthy materials and photos to Lorraine Scanni at Lscanni@rumcsi.org.

