

## New Emergency Department is Only Months Away!



Richmond University Medical Center's new state-of-the-art emergency department is only a few months away from opening to the public. The new ED will provide 35,000 square feet of space, compared to 15,000 square feet in the current ED, which was built in 1978 — an increase of 133 percent. Over 65,000 patients are cared for annually in RUMC's emergency department.

The entire steel frame for the new ED is now complete. The interior staircases and remaining

underground work are nearly finished. Exterior siding around the entire steel structure began last month. The new ED will open next spring with new triage rooms, trauma treatment bays, airborne infection isolation rooms, and additional specialty areas. There will also be designated areas for pediatrics, urgent care, and behavioral health. The second floor of the new building will be used for upgrades and expansion, including ten brand-new operating rooms.



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



As our new emergency department continues to take shape right before our very eyes, I am excited to provide the first in a series of “sneak peeks” into one of several clinical sections that we are planning to have embedded within the

new ED that will immediately provide tremendous benefit to so many people in our community.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, healthcare professionals across Staten Island were seeing an alarming increase in behavioral health and substance use issues. The pandemic only further served to exacerbate these problems, which reach across all age groups, ethnicities, demographics, and socioeconomic status. When our new ED opens its doors in spring of next year, it will feature a Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC), an innovative, first of its kind on Staten Island center where patients in need of behavioral health treatment can go to be stabilized. The sole purpose of our new BHUCC will

be to provide prompt assessment and relief to adults, children, or adolescents experiencing a behavioral health crisis. This includes individuals experiencing symptoms of anxiety, depression, or other mood disorders; stress-related symptoms causing emotional distress; a worsening of mood or anxiety symptoms; behavioral changes; or when their primary psychiatrist or therapist is not available and they need immediate care. Our team of highly trained behavioral health specialists in our new BHUCC will also be able to quickly provide further recommendations and immediate referrals for additional treatment as needed. Similar to a walk-in facility, appointments will not be necessary to access the resources of our BHUCC. Emergency situations and severe psychiatric health cases will continue to be referred to our on-site Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP), thus providing a full continuum of behavioral health care.

Richmond University Medical Center has long been Staten Island's leading provider of behavioral health services for children, adolescents, and adults. We have an unparalleled network

of resources that not only includes our CPEP and Mobile Crisis Units for emergency intervention, but also a full spectrum of comprehensive programs and support services available through our Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine at 1130 South Avenue and the many sites operated by Staten Island Mental Health Society, a division of RUMC since 2019.

When it opens next year, our new BHUCC will be an easily accessible and effective resource for thousands of people faced with behavioral health problems. A resource that everyone in our entire RUMC family and our community will be proud of.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Daniel J. Messina".

Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

Kudos to the staff of Richmond University Medical Center! My mother has been in and out of RUMC some 12 times in the past three years. The treatment by the entire staff at RUMC has been the most professional and caring. While I cannot remember everyone's name in the emergency department and ICU, I would like to mention PA Derek Rias who has not only offered care above and beyond, but has become a family member. I would also like to mention Mike Push who always made sure my mom received the breakfast that I dropped off the night before during the height of COVID. Most recently

medical student Mannish, RN Melody, and especially Dr. Scott all provided an environment where my mom felt safe and well cared for. The ED can be frightening, especially for an 88-year-old. These individuals were never too busy to offer advice, provide compassion, and show kindness to my mom and me. Again, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire staff at RUMC. Your drive and dedication on behalf of the residents of Staten Island are truly noted and deeply appreciated.

G.D.



## Procedure Day Held to Educate New Residents



Richmond University Medical Center held its annual Procedure Day for all incoming residents. Experienced staff from all disciplines of the hospital came to discuss, educate, and demonstrate to our new

residents some of the procedures and equipment they may come across on a daily basis. This included blood draws, taking blood cultures, providing stitches, taking EKGs, understanding infection control

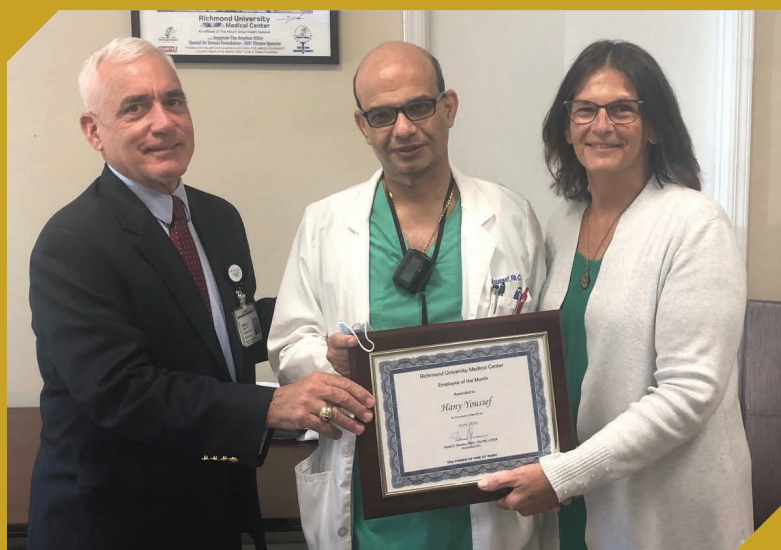
procedures, and how to perform a respiratory intubation. Among the departments that participated were OB/GYN, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Podiatry, Psychiatry, and Radiology.



## RUMC Staff Honored in City's Hometown Heroes Parade



On July 7, staff from Richmond University Medical Center marched up the Canyon of Heroes in Manhattan as part of New York City's Salute to Hometown Heroes. The parade featured representatives from all essential worker groups and provided the public with an opportunity to show its appreciation for their dedication and commitment.



### Employee of the Month: Hany Youssef, Sr. PA

Congratulations to Hany Youssef, Sr., PA, who was selected as Employee of the Month for June 2021. Youssef was recognized for his continued dedication to our patients as well as his colleagues in the Department of Surgical Services and throughout RUMC.



## RUMC Pediatrics Chair Sworn in as Medical Society President

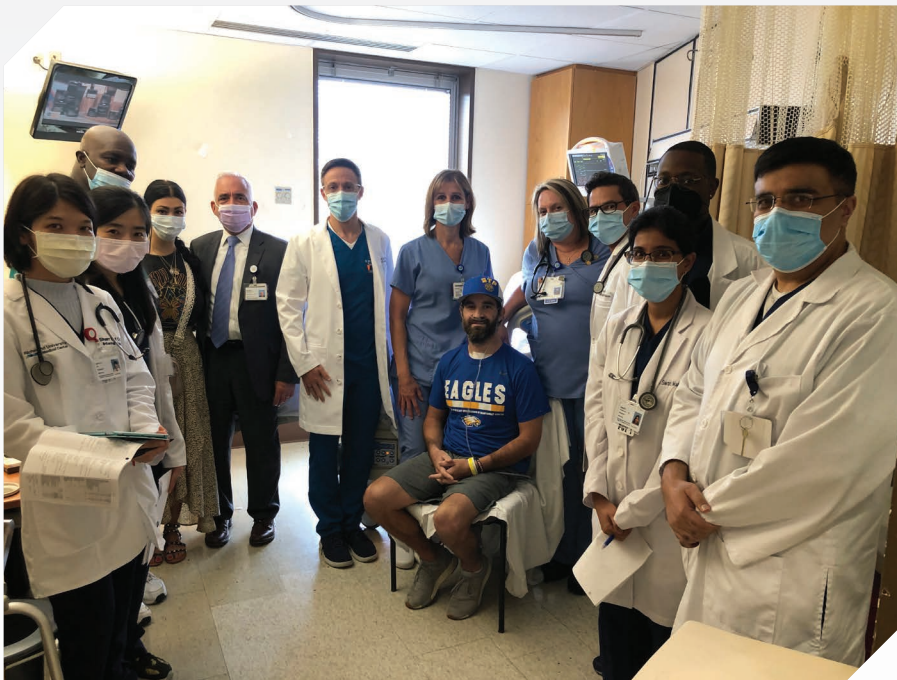


Congratulations to Brian McMahon, MD, FAAP, chair of Richmond University Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics, who was sworn in as the 215th president of the Richmond County Medical Society. Dr. McMahon was sworn

in by outgoing president Radha Syed, MD. Dr. McMahon was installed along with Murlidhar Pahuja, MD, as vice president; Sara Ahmed, MD, as treasurer; and Ana Mendez, MD, as secretary. Also sworn in was Melissa Grageda, MD, as

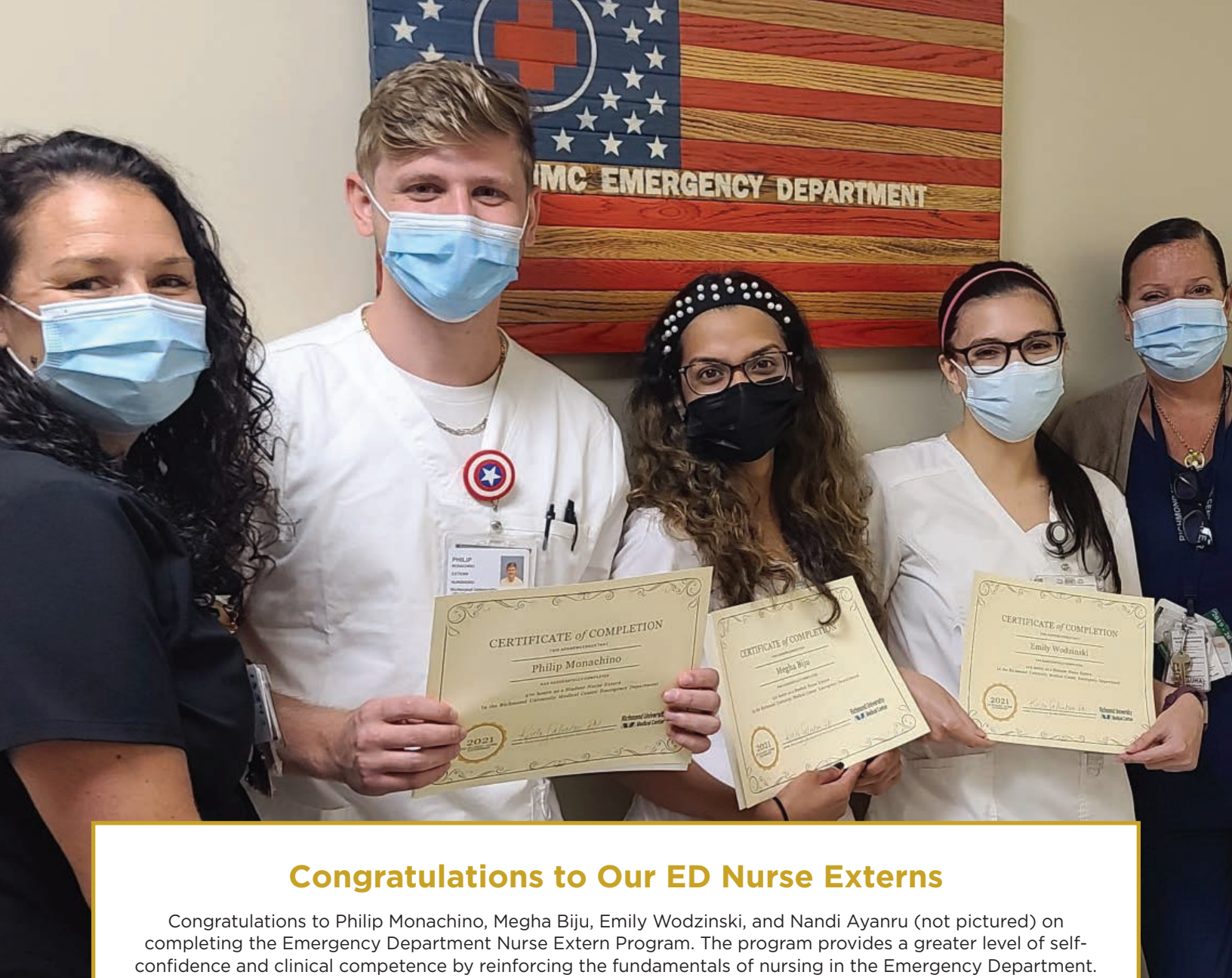
president-elect. Dr. Grageda will become the 216th President of the society next year. Dr. Grageda is also RUMC's chief/medical director of our Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

## Warm Send-Off for St. Peter's Boys HS Principal Michael Cosentino



St. Peter's Boys High School Principal and alumnus Michael Cosentino was discharged on July 21 after 40 days at the hospital battling COVID-19. Cosentino was admitted to RUMC on June 12, and sent almost immediately to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Four days after being admitted to the ICU, Cosentino was placed on a ventilator to assist his breathing. He would require the assistance of a ventilator until July 17, when he was able to resume fully breathing on his own. Under the care of RUMC physicians, specialists, nurses, and medical staff 24/7 since being admitted, Cosentino left RUMC accompanied by his wife. He was greeted outside the hospital by over 100 cheering St. Peter's students, parents, and faculty. He will continue his recovery at home with his family. Cosentino went home a day before his daughter's ninth birthday.





## Congratulations to Our ED Nurse Externs

Congratulations to Philip Monachino, Megha Biju, Emily Wodzinski, and Nandi Ayanru (not pictured) on completing the Emergency Department Nurse Extern Program. The program provides a greater level of self-confidence and clinical competence by reinforcing the fundamentals of nursing in the Emergency Department.

## August Observances

Please join us in acknowledging the following health-related observances for the month of August:

### Month-Long

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month  
Gastroparesis Awareness  
Immunization Awareness  
National Breastfeeding Month  
Neurosurgery Awareness  
Psoriasis Action Month

### Week-Long Observances

World Breastfeeding Week: August 1 to 7  
National Health Center Week: August 8 to 14  
Contact Lens Health Week: August 19 to 23  
Spastic Paraplegia Awareness Week:  
August 22 to 28  
Health Unit Coordinator Week:  
August 23 to 29

### Recognition Days

World Lung Cancer Day:  
August 1  
Physician Family Day:  
August 28  
International Overdose  
Awareness Day: August 31





# September 11, 2001 Remembrance Ceremony *20 Years Later*

**Friday, September 10, 2021 11 AM**

**In front of the hospital** (Next to the main entrance on Bard Avenue)

**Please join your colleagues, the community, and members of the FDNY, NYPD, and EMS as we remember September 11, 2001. Flag-raising ceremony sponsored by the members of Rolling Thunder.**

## **New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!**

Patrick Adamo—*Building Service Worker*

Charity Akakpo—*RN*

Sindiswa Akinbo—*Educator*

Sandral Banful—*Nursing Assistant*

Dulce Bayot—*RN*

Isabella Bertucci—*Extern*

Carmen Cicero-Santalena—*Extern*

Erica DeFrancisci—*RN*

Alexa Farag—*Extern*

Deanna Fay—*Extern*

Robert Feingold—*RN*

Sara Fischman—*Extern*

Yelena Funk—*RN*

Amanda Fursa—*Extern*

Joan Gleason-Scott—*VP, Quality*

Bianca Gonzalez—*Extern*

Charlene Grant—*FNP*

Sonya Holmes—*Guest Rep*

Nazariy Ivanovych—*Denial Coordinator*

Michael Johnson—*RN*

Nasr Kamel—*Radiology Tech*

Sandeep Kaur—*PCT*

Kaila Kolobanov—*Extern*

Guadalupe Lasalle—*Building  
Service Worker*

Joseph Lugo—*Materials Specialist*

Stephanie Matishek—*RN*

Brandon Medrano—*Switchboard Operator*

Tarejin Na—*RN*

Catherine Nasella—*Extern*

Anthony Nimley—*Nursing Assistant*

Kolubo Pewee—*Nursing Assistant*

Alexandra Raccuia—*Mauro-RN*

Armend Rafuna—*RN*

Lynette Ramos—*Melendez-RN*

Joanne Rando—*Extern*

Gina Rodriguez—*Nursing Assistant*

Krista Sabbatino—*Extern*

Sandra Salcedo—*Building  
Service Worker*

Lauren Santangelo—*RN*

Geraldine Tenaglia—*RN*

Reshma Varghese—*Clinical Research  
Coordinator*

Rawan Younes—*Extern*



A close-up photograph of a white golf ball sitting on a vibrant green golf course green. The green has a distinct mowed texture. The image is positioned on the left side of the flyer, with its right edge following a wavy, organic shape that separates it from the text area.

# SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021  
AT THE RICHMOND COUNTY COUNTRY CLUB

JACK SIPP  
GOLF, TENNIS  
AND  
BOCCE OUTING

*To benefit  
Richmond University  
Medical Center*

Register at  
[www.rumcsi.org/golf](http://www.rumcsi.org/golf)