

# Richmond University Medical Center

APRIL 2022 • RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER • WWW.RUMCSI.ORG

## RUMC Holds 2nd Annual Arnold Obey/RUMC 5K Run/Walk/Bike in Clove Lakes Park



*David Carles, running in memory of his brother Mark, was the overall winner with a time of 00:17:30.6.*



*Andrew Brandon, 11 with his mom and dad, Mark Brandon, MD, after presenting his donation of over \$6,000.*



*Nearly 200 people participated in this year's event, held at Clove Lakes Park.*

Close to 200 individuals participated in Richmond University Medical Center's 2nd annual Arnold Obey/RUMC 5K Run/Walk/Bike event on Saturday, April 9. The event was held at Clove Lakes Park with proceeds supporting the purchase of state of the art medical equipment for the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Over \$20,000 was raised from the event.

The winner of this year's event was David Carles with a time of 00:17:30.6. Carles ran in memory of his brother Mark, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 27 after a battle with a rare form of cancer. David ran with a photo of his brother pinned to his shirt. An avid runner before his death, a moment of silence was held before the race for Mark and participants wore black ribbons in his memory. David and Mark are the nephews of Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon who attended the event.

Rounding out this year's winners, behind Carles in the men's division was Jose Davila in second place at 00:17:38.2; and Dave Michaels in third at

00:18:11.6. The top three finishers in the women's division were Jen Gregorio at 00:22:19.4; Maria Conde in second place at 00:23:02.7; and Carmen Garcia in third at 00:23:45.7.

Prior to the event, the Obey family thanked everyone for continuing to honor Arnold's memory. Obey, who passed away in 2020, was an avid runner. Obey ran track as a student first at DeWitt Clinton High School and then at Wagner College. His running career as an adult included nearly four decades of participating in the New York City Marathon, a race he ran 38 consecutive times.

Also before the race, Andrew Brandon, 11, presented a check for over \$6,000. A goalie in a local Staten Island hockey league, Brandon raised funds by asking people to donate for every save he made. He ended the season with over 900 saves. Born at RUMC and the son of one of the hospital's orthopedic surgeons, Mark Brandon, MD, the young goalie's donation will also be used to support RUMC's NICU.

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



We pride ourselves on providing the most advanced care possible for every patient, every time. Recently, this fact was put to the test during recent surveys conducted by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and the New York State Department of Health. I am pleased to say we truly showed why Richmond University Medical Center is the special place that it is.

For over 80 years, Richmond University Medical Center's oncology program has been accredited by the ACS Commission on Cancer, making our program the longest consecutively accredited program of its kind on Staten Island. This is no small feat by any means. It means consistency in our treatments, our care paths, our procedures. It means strict adherence to the standards set by the ACS, while also maintaining the highest level of quality and safety for our patients and our staff. Every three years, we, like over 100 healthcare institutions across our country with ACS accreditation, undergo a rigorous re-accreditation survey and evaluation. This year, the surveyor was one of the top surveyors in the country based on his experience and positions he has held in the regulatory space.

I am excited to announce that we were compliant in all standards except "synoptic reporting for pulmonary cases," requiring additional reporting elements. The surveyor did point out the following programs and areas as excellent and as strengths for our hospital: outreach during the pandemic; behavioral health; palliative care; and clinical trials.

Special thanks to Debbie Rodriguez, associate director of Oncology; Victoria Forte, MD, chief of Hematology and Oncology; Nisha Lakhi, MD, chair Cancer Committee and clinical liaison physician; and Richard Salhany, President of the Richmond Health Network and chief administrative officer for preparing our team and guiding us through the evaluation which resulted in our continued accreditation!

Likewise, I would like to extend congratulations to our Department of Laboratory Medicine on their recent lab survey. Inspectors from the New York State Department of Health assessed the Clinical/ Pathology Laboratory in late February. The departments surveyed included Hematology/ Urinalysis/ Coagulation; Chemistry/ Endocrinology/ Serology/ Drugs of Abuse; Microbiology (Parasitology, Virology, Bacteriology, and Mycology); Blood Bank; Histology/Cytology; Point of Care; Health Fair and Quality Management/ QA/LIS/ Safety; Biohazard Risk Assessment, and Public Preparedness. The inspectors gave excellent feedback about the quality of the laboratory management and teamwork. There were no findings except for one in the Microbiology Procedure Manual pertaining to Validation of Performance of Blood Culture Identification, which did not include a summary comparison in the procedure.

Special thanks to our Laboratory Team, including Dr. Svetoslav Bardarov, Dr. H. Zhong, Dr. H. Sun (pathologists), Ann Marie Brown (lab admin director), Supriya Gudla (Hematology/ Chemistry), Ann Silverio (Point-of-Care), Sally Pui-Nip (Blood Bank), Kate Valenti and Manal Yacoub (Microbiology), Chu-Hui Chang (former Histology manager), and our great laboratory team of PAs, technologists, technicians, registrars, lab aides and PCTs. A special thank you also goes out to Rosemarie Stazzone (COO/ CNO); Nancy Taranto (vice president of Regulatory); Kathryn Giovinazzo (assistant vice president of Clinical Services); and the entire support services division for their assistance. GREAT TEAM WORK BY EVERYONE!

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

Sincerely,

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

## Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

Wonderful staff, treated like family as soon as you came in.  
Spoke to you so you could understand.

— Leila M.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Forte for Evusheld evaluation. Currently and for the past two years, I've been treated at The Abramson Cancer Center at Penn Medicine in Philadelphia, an impressive, renowned, behemoth facility. Obviously, this was my first visit to the RUMC Center for Cancer Care and I came away quite impressed. My initial interaction at check in by an apparently well-trained, helpful staff was reassuring.

The hematology resident who handled the history intake was well versed not only about chronic lymphocytic leukemia but also with acalabrutinib treatment. The encounter with Dr. Forte was something that any cancer patient would highly value. Obviously, with a crammed schedule, she still took the time to patiently explain all factors surrounding Evusheld administration side effects and what to expect on the day of administration. Her physical examination was extensive and not hurried. She was personable, professional, and very reassuring. RUMC patients on Staten Island are fortunate to have the Center for Cancer Care available close to home, eliminating a trip into the city.

— Robert G.



## RUMC cardiologist explains how minimally invasive angioplasty can offer an alternative to open-heart surgery



*Sean Galligan, MD, Assistant Director of Cardiology*

Studies show that nearly one million angioplasties are performed annually from coast to coast. And this common, minimally invasive procedure, which uses a balloon-like device to open blocked coronary arteries, has proven to be an effective alternative to open-heart surgery for many patients with coronary artery disease.

Often involving a combination of ballooning and stent placement, “angioplasty is typically used for two types of patients, those presenting with an acute heart attack or those who have coronary artery disease with chronic angina (chest pain on exertion) which hasn’t been resolved with medication,” shared Sean Galligan, MD, RUMC’s Assistant Director of Cardiology.

Dr. Galligan said that the presence of coronary artery disease and the subsequent need for an angioplasty can occur in people of all ages and backgrounds, even those as young as their 20s. “However, the typical patient is in their 50s to 70s and has one or more risk factors, which include smoking, being overweight, having diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, having a sedentary lifestyle, and/or having a strong

family history of heart disease,” he said.

For those who experience chest pain upon exertion, “our process begins with a consultation in the office where we’ll review the patient’s vital signs, medical history, medications, and symptoms,” Dr. Galligan said. “We’ll take steps to evaluate the source of their chest pain by doing cardiac CT imaging or non-invasive stress testing, and, if testing reveals an abnormality or they experience ongoing symptoms, we’ll discuss proceeding with an angiogram, which is the diagnostic portion of the procedure. During an angiogram, we’ll use catheters to inject dye and take pictures of the coronary arteries to see what’s going on,” he said. He and fellow colleagues will then determine whether an angioplasty procedure is appropriate based on the patient’s medical history and any other medical conditions that may be present.

The process is much the same for patients experiencing an acute heart attack, but on a more emergent scale. “For these patients, we want to get an angioplasty underway within 90 minutes of their presentation to the hospital because ‘time is muscle,’” Dr. Galligan explained. “The longer the cardiac muscle is left without blood flow, the higher the chance of long-term damage and scar formation, which can lead to heart failure, irregular heartbeat, and other life-threatening conditions.”

“While an angioplasty won’t get rid of an acute blockage or any of the atherosclerosis (cholesterol build-up) that caused a narrowing of the internal portion of the blood vessel in the first place, the procedure expands the vessel and restores adequate blood flow to the heart muscle,” Dr. Galligan said. “We go in with small devices, wires, and specially-made balloons and snake them through the arteries to restore good blood flow and pressure.”

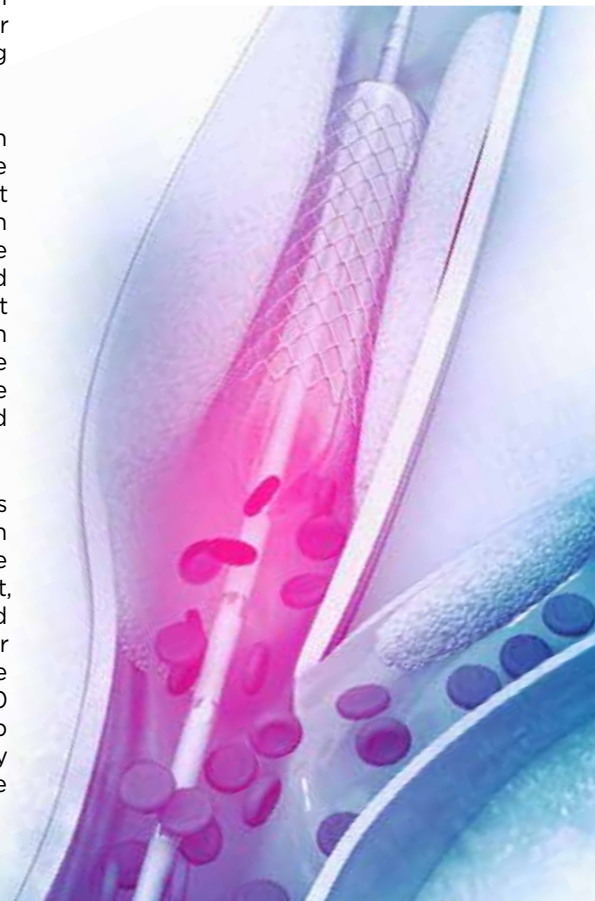
Previously performed by gaining access to the chest cavity through an artery in the leg or groin, “90 percent of cases are now done via access through the wrist, which reduces the risk of bleeding and results in a shorter hospital stay for patients,” Dr. Galligan said. “The entire procedure takes anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes, and while we typically keep patients overnight for observation, many are able to go home the same day,” he

added, noting that patients are also treated aggressively with medication as well as encouraged to make certain lifestyle changes to help prevent the event from recurring.

Among his top tips for a healthy heart, Dr. Galligan encourages smokers to quit their habit. “If there’s any one thing that can reduce someone’s chances of needing an angioplasty, stent, or another coronary intervention, it’s refraining from smoking,” he confirmed. Other recommendations include pursuing sound lifestyle practices such as regular exercise and a healthy diet. “The good news is that it’s never too late to change your diet and exercise routine and help reduce your chances of heart disease, even if you possess one or more risk factors,” he said.

According to Dr. Galligan, the opportunity to help restore his patients’ health and quality of life is endlessly rewarding. “It’s extremely gratifying to be able to prevent long-term damage to a patient’s heart muscle and, improve their symptoms, and then see them enjoying life’s milestones with their family after a procedure,” he said. “That’s what it’s all about.”

RUMC’s Cardiovascular Department can be reached at 718-818-7425.





## SAVE THE DATE

**Monday, May 9, 2022**  
Richmond County Country Club

Honoring:  
**Samala Swamy, MD**  
and **Vincent Theurer**

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

## Active Shooter Drill Conducted to Reinforce Hospital Safety Procedures



*William Amaniera, AVP, Emergency Services and Security, acting as a gunman, enters the hospital cafeteria pointing a fake firearm at staff during the hospital's active shooter drill.*

On March 15, an active shooter drill was conducted inside the main hospital at 355 Bard Avenue. The drill also tested the response in several off-site facilities such as Staten Island Mental Health Society, the Center for Cancer Care, and the Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine. The drill successfully did what it was intended to do. It confirmed that many of the hospital's security procedures and the actions of staff, had this been an actual event, were appropriate. It also identified several areas for

improvement, which will be addressed immediately. Members of the NYPD who participated in the drill praised RUMC staff for their actions and conduct. The drill was videotaped and will be used as a learning tool for staff and the NYPD.

Thanks to the actions of hospital staff, NYPD was able to quickly enter the hospital and apprehend the shooter, portrayed by William Amaniera, AVP, Emergency Services and Security. The drill, which is a requirement for the hospital, was developed and coordinated by Amaniera and Tina Campbell, Safety Officer/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and involved staff from several departments throughout the hospital and RUMC network of facilities.



*NYPD officers from the 120 Pct. quickly apprehend the "shooter" bringing an end to the drill.*



# 8TH ANNUAL PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYMPOSIUM

**Friday April 22, 2022  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Hybrid Live & Virtual Event (SIPP & via Teams Online)  
355 Bard Avenue Staten Island, N.Y.

**Investigating Events Effectively: Changing Hospital Culture**

**Guest Speaker:**

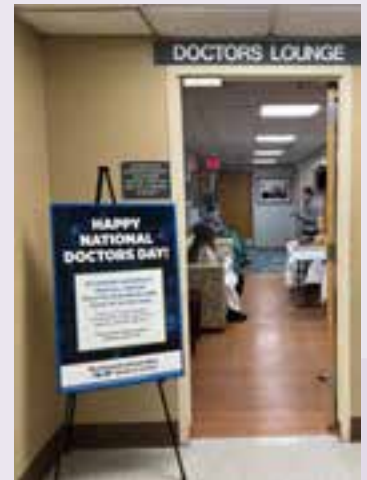
**Dr. Albert Wu, MD, MPH**

*Professor and Interim Chair of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Senior Adviser for Patient Safety to the WHO*

For more details, please contact:  
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or [khshah@rumcsi.org](mailto:khshah@rumcsi.org)

**Richmond University  
Medical Center**

## RUMC Celebrates National Doctors Day



On March 30 each year, National Doctors Day honors medical professionals for their dedication and contributions to society and the community. Every year, RUMC holds a thank you lunch to recognize the commitment and dedication of its physicians, surgeons, specialists, and medical doctors.

Winder, Georgia, observed the first Doctors Day on March 30, 1933. Dr. Charles B. Almond's wife, Eudora Brown Almond, wanted to have a day to honor physicians. The community mailed greeting cards and placed flowers on the graves of deceased doctors on this first celebration in 1933. The red carnation is commonly used as

the symbolic flower for National Doctors Day. On February 21, 1991, President George H.W. Bush proclaimed National Doctors Day to honor the nation's physicians for their dedication and leadership.

# The Quality and Patient Safety “Q Corner”

From Joan Gleason Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ, CPPS  
Vice President Quality, Infection Prevention, Patient Experience, Language Services



Joan Scott Gleason

At RUMC, we continually strive to go above and beyond for our patients and families expectations. We remain diligent and steadfast in our commitment to deliver safe and quality patient care, while also maintaining the highest level of satisfaction with our services.

The Patient Experience Department continues to collaborate with the clinical and operations staff to keep our focus on

perceptions of care “Through the Eyes of the Patient.” One way we teach this is using a highly recognized best practice called AIDET:

**A=Acknowledge:** Greet our patients and families with a smile and learn each of their names. Our goal is to always create a positive and lasting impression while caring for our patients.

**I=Introduce yourself:** While this may seem so obvious, this is a reminder to do so, even in the middle of the moment, when the focus is on the delivery of care. Also, explain your role on the patient's care team.

**D=Duration:** Explain the time that each procedure may take and inform the patient if there are delays. We want to set realistic expectations and goals for their treatment plans.

**E=Explain:** From the moment a patient is admitted to RUMC, our goal is to keep them informed. We want them to understand the medications we are giving them and the treatments they may receive, and that we are here to answer all of their questions. We want them to be prepared and well informed for their discharge as well. Equally as important, we are here to listen!

**T=Thank You:** Thank you to the patients for giving us the privilege of caring for them and/or their loved ones. We want them to let us know if they have any questions and we will make sure to answer them.

As the Vice President of Quality, Infection Control, Patient Experience, and Language Access, I want to thank my staff for their work on perceptions of care...“Through the Eyes of the Patient.”

## New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Omari Abdussalaam —  
Desktop Analyst

Anthony Ayr — Security Guard

Ashley Beneducci — RN

Sabrina Caliph — RN

Darielle Connor Sr — PA

Krystral Cottrell — Clinical Registrar

Christopher Donegan — Manager

Anthony Fasulo — EMT

Meredith Gaskins — Sr Development &  
Marketing Specialist

Vincent Giordano — Trauma Data  
Analyst

Hakima Jackson — Clinical Registrar

Nisha Jose — RN

Danilo Martinez — RN

Evelyn Medina — Bldg Service Worker

Patricia Mendoza — Sr PA

Stacie Meyers — RN

Natalee Mundy — Unit Clerk

Vanessa Munoz — Anesthesia Tech

Arijana Perovic — Payroll/Staff Clerk

Elsa Qyteza — Bldg Service Worker

Olga Rakhlin — Medical Director

Michael Reis — LMHC

Alexandrea Sanzone — Security Guard

Nakiya Torres — Infection Control RN

Karen Wilson — Nursing Assistant

Yoon (Grace) Yu — Community Health  
Worker



## April Observances

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

### Month-Long

Alport Syndrome Awareness Month  
Alcohol Awareness Month  
Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month  
Autism Acceptance Month  
Cesarean Awareness Month  
Child Abuse Prevention Month  
Distracted Driving Awareness Month  
Donate Life Month  
Facial Protection Month  
Minority Health Month  
National Autism Awareness Month  
National Cancer Control Month  
National Child Abuse Prevention Month  
National Donate Life Month  
National Minority Health Month  
National Occupational Therapy Month  
National Parkinson's Awareness Month  
Occupational Therapy Month  
Oral Cancer Awareness Month  
Primary Immunodeficiency Awareness Month  
Sarcoidosis Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month  
Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month  
STD Awareness Month  
STI Awareness Month  
Stress Awareness Month  
Testicular Cancer Awareness Month  
Women's Eye Health and Safety Month

### Week-Long

National Public Health Week: April 4 to 10  
Black Maternal Health Week: April 11 to 17  
National Infertility Awareness Week: April 24 to 30  
National Infant Immunization Week: April 26 to May 3

### Recognition Days

National Alcohol Screening Day: April 7  
World Health Day: April 7  
World Parkinson's Day: April 11  
World Hemophilia Day: April 17

## Employees of the Month

**Congratulations to the Employees of the Month for March 2022!**



**Henry Orjuela**  
Manager, Central Sterile  
Supply Department



**Eve Vogt, RN**  
Richmond County Savings  
Foundation Mother/Baby Center

# Richmond University Medical Center

## THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE BEGINS IN 2022!

### NEW MEDICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



- ▶ Increasing from 10 to 14 private patient rooms.
- ▶ New isolation/negative pressure rooms.
- ▶ Larger family visiting areas in each room.

Spring 2022

### A NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART EMERGENCY TRAUMA DEPARTMENT



- ▶ More than doubling in size to 35,000 sq. ft.
- ▶ Expanded emergency trauma unit and triage sections.
- ▶ Specialty areas for pediatrics and urgent care.
- ▶ New ambulance bays and patient drop-off area.

Summer 2022

### NEW SURGICAL DEPARTMENT



- ▶ 10 new advanced and fully equipped operating suites.
- ▶ Increased preoperative and recovery space.

Late Fall 2022

### FULLY RENOVATED RICHMOND COUNTY SAVINGS FOUNDATION MOTHER/BABY CENTER



- ▶ All rooms converted to single occupancy private rooms.
- ▶ Remodeled bathrooms, flooring, windows, and lighting.

Coming 2023

## Our Largest Expansion In Over 100 Years... All To Better Serve You!

355 BARD AVENUE  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10310  
[RUMCSI.ORG](http://RUMCSI.ORG)

Richmond University  
Medical Center

We Care For You Like Family, Because You Are.

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE

