

## RUMC Unveils New Medical Intensive Care Unit with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



*Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella.*



*One of the new state-of-the-art patient care rooms in the new MICU.*

On August 3, Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) officially opened its new, state-of-the-art 14-bed Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU). The \$15 million upgraded facility features expanded isolation/negative pressure rooms, modernized nurse stations and patient observation areas, and larger family visiting areas.

“This is a strategic and transformational milestone in the more than 100-year history of Richmond University Medical Center,” said RUMC President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE. “It’s the start of several major upgrades and expansions that will bring a whole different level of care to the Staten Island community.”

The new MICU also has expanded from 10 patient care rooms to 14 rooms to accommodate the growing need for RUMC’s critical care services. Each room features smart-TVs for telehealth consultations and lifts to help assist patients with mobility limitations. Each room also includes double headwalls that enable RUMC to expand capacity to 28 beds in the event of a patient surge.

“This is one of the best days in the history of this organization, because it is going to serve thousands of Staten Island residents who will come here feeling as ill as possible, but will walk out of here safely and securely,” said Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella.

The unveiling of the new MICU is just the first in a series of over \$250 million in new upgrades and expansion projects that are scheduled for completion at RUMC this year and in 2023. Later this fall, the hospital will open its new 35,000 sq. ft. Emergency Department in partnership with Mount Sinai Health System, as well as a new Co-Gen power plant that will provide electricity, heat, and air conditioning to the entire hospital. Next year, RUMC will welcome an upgraded Surgical Department with 10 new ultramodern surgical suites located directly above the new Emergency Department and a new Mother/Baby Center that features private suites designed to enhance privacy and family bonding.

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



For years, our hospital has been known across Staten Island and surrounding communities as the “Baby Hospital.” We deliver close to 3,000 newborns a year, have one of the most advanced Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Units you’ll find anywhere, and we are proudly designated as a “Baby Friendly” hospital by the WHO and UNICEF for our quality of care and special attention to the importance of breastfeeding. We remain Staten Island’s only hospital with this designation, one of only 22 across New York City, and one of only 36 in the entire state!

The lifeblood of our success and the architects of our reputation is of course our dedicated staff including physicians, nurses, and medical professionals who literally bring new life into the world each day. Parents have entrusted us, whether it is their first baby or another addition to the family, with being part of one of the greatest moments in their lives and are secure in the knowledge that we will provide them with the very best care possible. Our reputation is well deserved and only possible because of all that you do. I know firsthand as my grandchildren were born and cared for right within these walls.

To further cement our reputation for generations to come and ensure that both our medical team and our patients have the most modern and comfortable facilities a hospital can provide, we are in the midst of a major renovation to our Richmond County Savings Foundation Mother/Baby Center. Progress continues with completion scheduled for next year. When finished, gone will be

the days of double occupancy maternity rooms. All of our rooms will be single occupancy, creating an enhanced environment that further promotes privacy, family bonding, and alleviates health concerns like COVID-19. Our new rooms will also provide families with new private bathroom amenities, flooring, windows, and lighting. All of this without sacrificing any capacity.

Phase one of the project, the conversion of existing rooms to single occupancy, began in May of this year and is currently in progress, with completion anticipated by end of this year. The architectural design for phase two, the construction of new maternity rooms from underutilized space, is also underway. Actual construction of the new rooms will begin in the first quarter of next year.

If you listen to our overhead speakers, you can hear our famous lullaby, played whenever a new baby is born. So all of this work is happening while we continue to welcome new generations for thousands of families. No easy task at all! Nevertheless, it is one that is truly a labor of love and just another exciting project that puts RUMC at the forefront of serving our community. Thank you all. Enjoy the summer...it’s going fast!

### 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

- ▶ “The staff in the emergency room was very nice and took care of my son like he was their own. I am very happy with the services provided. All the nurses and doctors in the RUMC ER are outstanding. Thank you!”
- ▶ “The nurses were patient, polite, and knowledgeable. They helped me in my post-op time, working with me to control my pain. They were so supportive and outstanding!”
- ▶ “I had outpatient surgery and I was extremely nervous, but everyone was very nice and made me feel comfortable. By the time I was wheeled into the OR, I felt calm. My post-op nurses were very nice as well. They sat and spoke with me the whole time. Thanks to the staff, I had a good experience.”
- ▶ “Today I was in the emergency department for my mom. Your services are excellent, including the security guards who were very helpful. God bless all of your medical staff members.”



# Mount Sinai Health System Officially Integrates Emergency Medical Services with Richmond University Medical Center



*Medical staff and administrators from Richmond University Medical Center and Mount Sinai Health System.*

Staten Island residents have gained more intimate access to some of New York City's most distinguished doctors and specialists, as Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) officially embarks on an expanded clinical and academic partnership with Mount Sinai Health System.

"This opens up opportunities for Staten Islanders that they have never had before," noted Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, president and CEO of RUMC, commenting on the newest segment of the partnership between the two providers that was originally established in 2020. "Not only do residents have access to RUMC's team of experienced professionals, they also now have the benefit of utilizing Mount Sinai's emergency medicine expertise. I think this partnership will provide our community with expanded access to the outstanding healthcare services available in New York City in a setting that's close to home."

The expanded affiliation, which went into effect July 1, comes as RUMC prepares to open its new 35,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Emergency Department this fall. Under the agreement, Mount Sinai Health System and RUMC will integrate care for emergency medicine, trauma, and critical care services provided at RUMC's Emergency Department, and extend admitting privileges at RUMC to Mount Sinai medical specialists.

According to Dr. Brendan Carr, system

chair of emergency medicine at Mount Sinai Health System, the affiliation is aimed at building upon RUMC's "stellar" commitment to care, and providing an expanded range of elite emergency medical and trauma services to the borough.

"I've become well acquainted with the team here at RUMC over the past several years during our preparation for this partnership," Carr said. "During that preparation it has become clear how tight-knit this community is, and how intent the staff here at RUMC is on providing the best possible patient experience to that community. It's our goal to expand upon that patient experience even further and use our resources as a large provider to offer the people of Staten Island the very best in health care."

RUMC's current Emergency Department, a Level I Adult Trauma Center and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, is equipped to handle all levels of adult and pediatric emergencies and has designated areas for triage, pediatrics, chest/stroke care, trauma resuscitation, women's health and urgent care. Treating over 50,000 patients annually, the Emergency Department is a New York State Department of Health designated Stroke and STEMI Treatment Center, as well as a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Center of Excellence.

Mount Sinai Health System is considered one of the largest academic medical

systems in the New York metro area, with more than 43,000 employees working across eight hospitals, over 400 outpatient practices, nearly 300 labs, a school of nursing, and a leading school of medicine and graduate education.

In this partnership, the two organizations plan to work seamlessly together to deliver "world-class care."

"I'm very glad that RUMC has invited us to the table," concluded Dr. Joshua Kugler, Mount Sinai's vice president of physician services. "Mount Sinai is a large, world-renowned entity, but we share the same patient-focused culture as RUMC. I think this is the genesis of a truly wonderful relationship."



*"I think this is the genesis of a truly wonderful relationship," noted Dr. Joshua Kugler, Mount Sinai Health System's Vice President of Physician Services.*

## Subaru, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Donate Blankets, Art Kits to Center for Cancer Care



Representatives from Subaru of America and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society delivered over 100 blankets and 10 arts and crafts kits to pediatric patients at Richmond University Medical Center's Center for Cancer Care.

The donation was part of the "Subaru

Loves to Care" program which has delivered over 230,000 blankets and 31,000 arts and crafts kits to pediatric patients across the country since 2015 when the program began.

The arts and craft kits contain paints, modeling clay, crayons and markers. The kits and blankets will be distributed

to cancer patients treated at the Center for Cancer Care throughout the year. To present the blankets and kits were Subaru representatives John Espinoza and Tom Cicatello. Representing the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society was Campaign Development Manager Gabriella Cowlan.



*In remembrance of  
Lauren H. Blaine  
DPM, PGY2 Podiatry*

*Richmond University Medical Center has lost a special person far too soon.*

# Richmond University Medical Center Announces Board Appointments

As Richmond University Medical Center heralds a new era with an unprecedented series of expansions and upgrades, its board of trustees salutes six outgoing members for their unwavering support and welcomes five new members to its ranks.

The new members, who are all Staten Island residents, were elected to three-year terms at the annual board meeting in June. They are:



**Anita Laremont, Esq.**, an attorney in the Manhattan law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP



**Rosemarie Maldonado, Esq.**, an attorney, and deputy commissioner of trials for the NYPD



**David McGoy**, director of governance and board placement with the Robin Hood Foundation



**Courtney Moore**, managing director with Merrill Private Wealth Management



**Marcello Sciarrino**, co-owner of Island Auto Group, Staten Island's largest dealership

Stepping off the board after 15 years of service each are The Rev. Dr. Tony Baker; Pietro Carpenito, MD; James Molinaro; Dennis Quirk; and Catherine Paulo, Esq.

Kathryn Krause Rooney, Esq., who has served as board chair since 2007, assumes the new role of board chair emeritus.

Also at the annual meeting, the board elected Ronald A. Purpora, a partner with the municipal bond broker Hartfield Titus & Donnelly, to serve as chair. Timothy C. Harrison, Esq., principal of TCH Realty & Development Co. LLC, is vice chair, and Katherine Anne Connors, PT MPH, a physical therapist in private practice, is board secretary.

"We welcome these five community champions at a transformative time for the hospital and appreciate that they are eager to meet the growing healthcare needs of their own hometown," Purpora said about the new board members.

He also saluted the six outgoing members.

"They have gone above and beyond to lead the hospital with determination and collaboration," Purpora said. "We are grateful for their selflessness and generosity."

As board chair emeritus, Rooney reflected on the hospital's growth.

"It has been an honor to lead this board and be part of the hospital's transformation,"

said Rooney. "There is no doubt that a strong board and an experienced executive management team are in place as the hospital reaches a milestone moment in its 119-year history."

"Our board is the backbone of this hospital," added Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, president and chief executive officer. "A state-of-the-art Emergency Department, opening in early fall, is a signature project made possible by the board's vision and commitment."

"This is an exciting time for RUMC and the residents of Staten Island," Dr. Messina said. "We are beyond proud of the ways we've been able to modernize this campus and are excited to usher in this new revolution."

## RUMC Expands Ambulance Fleet to Better Serve Community

Richmond University Medical Center has added two new top of the line ambulances to its fleet of emergency response vehicles. RUMC now has 13 ambulances in its fleet.



## Procedure Day Held to Educate New Residents



*Resident Wellness Group*



*Blood Draws Station*



*Infection Control Station*



*Information Board*



*Stitching, Securing Lines, Avoiding needle sticks*



*Information board*

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.

# 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 Gleason Scott

The 2022 Leapfrog Hospital Survey continues to include a Safety Practice related to Hand Hygiene. The Leapfrog Hand Hygiene Standard requires hospitals to:

- Provide hand hygiene training to all individuals who touch patients or items that will touch patients;
- Assess individuals' hand hygiene technique;
- Provide easily accessible alcohol-based hand sanitizer within five steps of patient beds;
- Collect hand hygiene compliance data on at least 200 hand hygiene opportunities (or 1.7 percent of all possible hand hygiene opportunities) each month in each patient care unit;
- Analyze and share hand hygiene compliance data with staff and leadership;
- Invite patients and visitors to remind staff to perform hand hygiene.

## Why Is Hand Hygiene Important?

Research supports the impact of hand hygiene practices on the reduction of healthcare associated infections (HAIs). Multiple studies have demonstrated a temporal relationship between improved hand hygiene practices and reduced HAI rates. For example, a study of hand hygiene compliance for hand washing and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer demonstrated that an increase from 48 percent to 66 percent compliance over a three year period was correlated with a reduction in nosocomial infections from 16.9 percent to 9.9 percent, and a reduction in methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) transmission from 2.16 to 0.93 episodes per 10,000 patient-days. Some have even demonstrated the elimination of MRSA from various care settings solely due to improved hand hygiene practices.

At Richmond University Medical Center, we are dedicated to the provision of safe care to all of the patients who we serve every day.

**We congratulate all who contributed to these efforts!**

## New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Maha Aljayyusi — RN  
Salamatu Bangura — Nursing Assistant  
Noreen Bi — RN  
Joseph Biuso — Transporter  
Svetlana Bodner — Medical Assistant  
Mariana Boshra — Sub  
Louis Caraballo — Building Service Worker  
Rachel Chu — RN  
Rosemary Chukwuemeka — RN  
Laura Claire — RN  
Nathaly Claros — Nursing Assistant  
AnaVita Cornago — Unit Clerk  
Megan Deliz — RN Intern  
Maureen Donnelly — Unit Clerk  
Christopher Doyle — Building Service Worker  
Agnes Eismont — RN  
Kristina Figueira — RN  
Jaylene Gomez — Registrar  
Bianca Gonzalez — RN Intern  
Hemmat Haferz — Classroom Sub  
Mohammad Hassan — Security Guard  
Nydia Hernandez-Reyes — Supervisor  
Tanekah Houston — Unit Clerk  
Evette Jackson — Security Guard

Shantavia James — Unit Clerk  
Kenisha Jones — Medical Assistant  
Jung In Kang — RN  
Taranjit Kaur — RN  
Kiyriaki Kosmidou — Nurse Extern  
Kyriaki Kosminov — RN Extern  
Aaliyah Lawrence — Patient Care Tech  
Jennifer Lin — Unit Clerk  
Amanda Lugo — RN Intern  
Jeremy Macwan — Staff Accountant  
Malita Maharaj — RN  
Nicole Marchese — LMSW  
Divya Mathew — RN  
Tenisha Mathurine — Medical Assistant  
Danielle Mauro — Nursing Assistant  
Vincent McGuiness — RN  
Tiffany Meadows — CMA  
Jolio Mercado — Unit Clerk  
Daniel Millan — Transporter  
Cherry Virgen — Monroy Transporter  
Doreen Moreira — Community Health Worker  
Amanda Nieves — Breastfeeding Peer Counselor  
Elizabeth Ojo — Nursing Assistant  
Trupti Patel — Lab Tech

Peter Porcaro — Transporter  
Michael Prestigiaco — Social Worker  
Nadya Ramrup — RN Intern  
Matthew Ruggiero — Security Guard  
Resmije Rusi — Building Service Worker  
Christopher Sabator — Security Guard  
Kathynn Samuelo-Ford — Nursing Assistant  
Betty Santillan Tovar — Nursing Assistant  
Christopher Scully — Registrar  
Gabrielle Segarra — Nursing Assistant  
Katherin Simmons — Supervisor  
Anandi Small — Nursing Assistant  
Ann Spaan — Unit Clerk  
Lea Sparacino — LMSW  
Nyasia Spivey — Admitting Clerk  
Nadine Teugna — Nursing Assistant  
MaryKutty Thomson — Nursing Assistant  
Kimberly Torello — Case Aide  
Felica Tuller Huggins — Unit Clerk  
Deloris Vines — Nursing Assistant  
Cherry Virgen Monroe — Transporter  
Sarah Walsh — RN  
Grace Jean Yglesias — Unit Clerk  
Malka Zupnick — RN

# 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  
Digestive Tract Paralysis Awareness Month  
Gastroparesis Awareness Month  
Minority Donor Awareness Month  
National Breastfeeding Month  
National Immunization Awareness Month  
Neurosurgery Awareness Month  
Psoriasis Action Month  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month  
Summer Sun Safety Month

## Week-Long

World Breastfeeding Week: August 1 to 7  
National Health Center Week: August 7 to 13  
Contact Lens Health Week: August 19 to 23

## Recognition Days

World Lung Cancer Day: August 1  
International Overdose Awareness Day: August 31  
National Night Out: August 2  
International Youth Day: August 12

## Welcome our new Vice President of Development, Joseph Burt



Joseph Burt has more than 25 years of experience in fundraising for nonprofit organizations in healthcare and higher education. For the past eleven years he has served as vice president/executive director of development for the Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation holding leadership positions at Palisades Medical Center, JFK University Medical Center, and the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

Joe came to Hackensack Meridian following a successful fundraising career in higher education, holding the positions of vice president for advancement at St. Peter's University, assistant vice president for alumni relations at Seton Hall University, and director of development at Xavier High School.

His community activities include serving on the boards of St. Francis Academy in Union City, NJ, and the John P. Hourihan Foundation for the Homeless and Hearing Impaired, as well as serving as a volunteer coach in youth basketball and baseball in Hudson County, NJ.

Joe, his wife Margaret, and their three children live in Jersey City.





Richmond University  
Medical Center

# Employee Appreciation

# Picnic

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 11 AM TO 6 PM**  
NANSEN PARK 3465 VICTORY BOULEVARD, SI, NY, 10314

- Hot Dogs • Hamburgers • BBQ • Ice Cream • Beer • Wine • Soda • More!
- Volleyball & softball, *(please bring your own equipment)*, live music, additional fun & games!

**OPEN TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

**FREE FOR STAFF MEMBERS**

\$60 for Adults (non-staff)

\$12 for children 4-12

Children under 4 are FREE.



Richmond Health  
Network

Please RSVP by August 19  
to DeanaCracolici at  
[Dcracolici@rumcsi.org](mailto:Dcracolici@rumcsi.org) and ext. 82441.  
Please make checks payable to:  
Richmond University Medical Center.

# Richmond University Medical Center

More from the opening of our Medical Intensive Care Unit

