

Richmond University Medical Center Earns National Accreditation for Emergency Geriatric Care



The Emergency Medicine Department at Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) has earned Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). This new three-year national accreditation affirms that RUMC has the appropriate equipment and properly trained medical personnel to provide emergency care to patients 65 years of age and older. Patients in this group often require special care because of their age or specific age-related conditions, illnesses, or injuries when arriving in the emergency department.

“This accreditation is recognition of the great care we currently provide in our emergency department,” chair of RUMC’s Emergency Medicine Department Johnathon LeBaron, DO, said. “It indicates that we are better informed and prepared to deal with the unique challenges presented by geriatric patients. With this knowledge, we are better equipped to treat them and return them to a safe, healing environment in the community.”

To achieve accreditation, RUMC met strict ACEP guidelines intended to improve patient

outcomes; provide standardized approaches to care that address common geriatric issues; and ensure ideal coordination between the emergency medicine department and other care settings including inpatient units within the hospital, home-based or community-based care providers, and/or rehabilitation and long-term care facilities.

Additional measures RUMC has taken to ensure that geriatric patients receive optimal care include inter-disciplinary geriatric education for staff; increased screenings for conditions such as delirium, dementia, and fall risk, among other vulnerabilities frequently presented by geriatric patients; and having geriatric appropriate equipment and supplies available such as hearing assistive devices, reading glasses, and walking/mobility aids.

The GEDA program was launched by the ACEP to recognize emergency departments that provide excellent care for older adults. Including RUMC, just over 40 healthcare facilities across New York State have GEDA accreditation, of which fewer than 20 are located in New York City.

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



When the subject of colorectal cancer comes up, the vast majority of people focus on the prep required, and in many cases, despite the benefits of a colonoscopy, decide against having the procedure. March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, so I want to take this opportunity to impress upon you the importance of the procedure, which is the “gold standard” for the early detection of colorectal cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, nearly 107,000 new cases of colon cancer and over 46,000 new cases of rectal cancer will be diagnosed in 2023. Overall, the lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer is about 1 in 23 for men and 1 in 26 for women. Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in both men and women, and is expected to cause over 52,500 deaths this year. Here on Staten Island, we have historically had higher cancer incidence rates than the rest of our nation.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. The death rate from colorectal cancer has been dropping in both men and women for several decades. There are a number of reasons for this. One is that colorectal polyps are being found more often through screenings and removed before they can develop into cancer. Screenings also result in many colorectal cancers being found earlier when they are easier to treat. Lastly, treatments for colorectal cancer, like those provided at our leading Center for Cancer Care, have improved over the last few decades. Today, the five-year survival rate for localized colorectal cancer, meaning there is no sign the cancer has spread outside of the colon or rectum, is 91 percent.

So what steps can you take now? You can visit our on-line health library, located on the homepage of our website, RUMCSI.org. There you can learn more about this type of cancer, the symptoms, information on how a colonoscopy is performed, and if you should have one performed according to your identified risk factors. If you are someone who dreads the prep, you can also find information on how today’s methods are vastly different from years ago and in most cases, easier on your body than you may think.

You can also contact one of our gastroenterologists to make an appointment for a colonoscopy. The contact information for our GI specialists is available on our website under the Richmond Health Network heading. They will assess your risk factors and make recommendations based on their wealth of knowledge and years of experience.

You can also purchase one of the many at-home test kits available to help screen for colorectal cancer without leaving the comfort of your house. While these tests are good indicators of your colorectal health, they should not replace an actual colonoscopy, especially if your physician recommends one. In the end, the benefits of a colonoscopy far outweigh the temporary inconvenience of the pre-procedure prep. As is so often the case, thanks to the miracles of modern day medicine, the keys to continued good health rest within our very own hands.

Remember the Power of One — You Make A Difference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Daniel J. Messina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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

Remember When...

A monthly look back at the history of Richmond University Medical Center

Meet the graduating nursing class of St. Vincent's Hospital, circa 1930. The photo was taken on the steps leading up to the Villa Building.

If you have photos you would like to submit for Remember When, email Alutz@rumcsi.org. Provide as much information as possible. Photos can be from anytime before 2013. The older the better.



Emergency Services Honored for Providing Support for High School Football Games



Peter Easop, Manager, RUMC Emergency Services; Richmond County District Attorney, Michael McMahon; Staten Island Zoo Executive Director, Ken Mitchell; and William Amaniera, Vice President, RUMC Emergency Services and Security.

Friends of Staten Island High School Football recently honored Richmond University Medical Center's William Amaniera, vice president, Emergency Services and Security, and Peter Easop, manager, Emergency Services, for their continuous support each season.

For the past 13 years, RUMC has provided an ambulance and EMTs at every high

school football game played on Staten Island. RUMC provides the service at no cost to the schools or the organization. A few years ago, several different companies provided ambulances at games. Today, RUMC is the only remaining provider for each game. While accepting his award, Amaniera thanked RUMC president and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, for supporting

the decision to support the games every season. Also honoring Amaniera and Easop were Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon and Staten Island Zoo Executive Director Ken Mitchell.

St. Peter's Principal Returns to RUMC to Say Thanks for Helping Him Beat COVID

Michael Cosentino, the principal of St. Peter's Boys High School, who spent 40 days in Richmond University Medical Center in June/July 2021, some of that time on a ventilator while he battled COVID-19, returned to RUMC last month to say thank you. He met with many of the medical professionals who cared for him including nurses Lisa Yeno and Diane Minette, who were in charge of Cosentino's care while he was in the Medical Intensive Care Unit.

"The nurses and Dr. Jay Nfonoyim saved my life," Cosentino said. "They are saints for what they did for me. Basically, I was speechless about it."



Left to right: Patricia Moore, RN; Principal Cosentino; Diane Minette, RN; Lisa Yeno, RN; and Anthony Basile, assistant vice president, Critical Care.



Holiday Blood Drive a Success!

In partnership with the New York Blood Center and the Staten Island Advance, Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) held a holiday season blood drive that resulted in 38 units of blood being collected. The drive, held on December 28, attracted 40 donors, most of them RUMC employees. According to the Blood Center, the 38 units collected have the potential to help save 114 lives. Donors participating in the drive received a voucher for a free pizza at either Dough, Jimmy Max, or Joe & Pat's Pizzeria and Restaurant.

Time Capsule Buried in Front of New Emergency Department



RUMC President and Chief Executive Officer, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, placing the hospital's time capsule into its home for the next 50 years.



Marker indicating the spot of the now buried time capsule.



A time capsule was buried recently outside the main entrance to Richmond University Medical Center's new Emergency Department (ED). The watertight, stainless steel capsule contains a variety of items celebrating the hospital's history and its new state-of-the-art ED. The capsule will be unearthed 50 years from now, in the year 2073.

"As we celebrate this historic moment for Richmond University Medical Center and for our community, we wanted to capture this time for future generations," RUMC president and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said. "We invited departments from throughout the hospital to contribute items that reflected the people and events that were happening when we opened our new ED."

Items contained in the capsule included the ribbon cut at the ceremony unveiling the new ED held on October 25, 2022; a roster of all current hospital employees and the board of trustees; newspaper articles from the Staten Island Advance covering the opening of the new ED; several department staff photos; and an Emergency Services patch worn by EMTs. Also included, as a sign of the times, was a COVID-19 home testing kit and a facemask with the RUMC logo.

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

This month's Q Corner is written by Stephanie Ramos Griggs, a patient who tells her story about the years of care that she has received at Richmond University Medical Center with the professional assistance of Nicole Stafford, Director, Language Access Department, and the other American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters who work with her in the department:

“My name is Stephanie Ramos Griggs. I am a Staten Island resident and have been a patient at Richmond University Medical Center since 2019. My one-year-old baby was also a patient here, as well as my father, who has had general surgery, and has his primary care doctors here. I never have to worry about communication with nurses and doctors because ASL interpreting service is great, very helpful, patient, punctual, and professional. The team actually goes above and beyond on their work, because they call or text me as reminder that I have an appointment coming up the next day, and also to let me know if doctors/nurses had to reschedule my appointments. Even when I have to go to the Emergency Department, the ASL interpreter is usually there BEFORE I get there! And stays for entire visit!

“Throughout my pregnancy in 2021, they were always there for me and I had a great experience with them, no frustration or aggravation. Sometimes, I know when I was afraid, I may have

been a bit “fresh” to the interpreter! But they put up with my crazy pregnancy hormones! They kept it professional as always.

“I didn't understand why they always wear dark clothing until one of the interpreters told me that it's easier for us to see their hand signings, which is true! The hospital also has video remote interpreting (VRI) machines just in case interpreters are not available because of conflicts with other patients' appointments. They teach the nurses and doctors how to use the VRI to communicate with deaf patients! I was very impressed! I see how they set it up and they communicate with me very well!



“I'm very grateful to have their ASL service at the hospital because everybody is wearing masks and it's hard for me to read their lips and interpreters are always here to come to my rescue! **Thank you so much for everything!**”

Congratulations to our Employees of the Month!



Danielle Ivanicki, Administrative Assistant, Radiology



Steven S. Nico, Peer Counselor, Silberstein Clinic

New Pediatric Sensory Gym Offers a Fun, Inspiring Place Kids Will Enjoy While Building Skills



Kristine Delgado, administrative director of rehabilitation

Richmond University Medical Center's Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center offers a broad range of physical, occupational, and speech therapy for adult and pediatric patients who are dealing with everything from weakness in their extremities and cognitive issues to challenges with speech and swallowing, visual deficits, balance issues, developmental delays, and more. Recently, RUMC was excited to add yet another offering to its extensive range of capabilities: a

new pediatric sensory gym designed to deliver a safe, therapeutic, and educational experience for babies and children.

Opened in the spring of 2022 and located in a dedicated section of the Rehabilitation Center, "our new pediatric sensory gym is designed for babies as young as a few weeks old and/or just discharged from the NICU through school-age kids up through seven or eight years old," shared Kristine Delgado, administrative director of rehabilitation. "Because kids learn best when all of their senses are engaged, we created a safe, structured environment outfitted with specialized pieces of equipment designed to stimulate their senses," she said. "It's like a little playground for them to enjoy while accomplishing a lot of therapeutic goals."

Delgado said that the sensory gym is used for treating children diagnosed with everything from autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy to those with ADHD or a developmental delay involving their speech, gross or fine motor skills, muscle strength, balance/coordination, cognitive skills, or another faculty. "We can let them safely run in our enclosed space or jump on the trampoline while we work on some other skill," she said. "It's a fun, colorful, and natural environment for children and we find that they respond so positively and participate more."

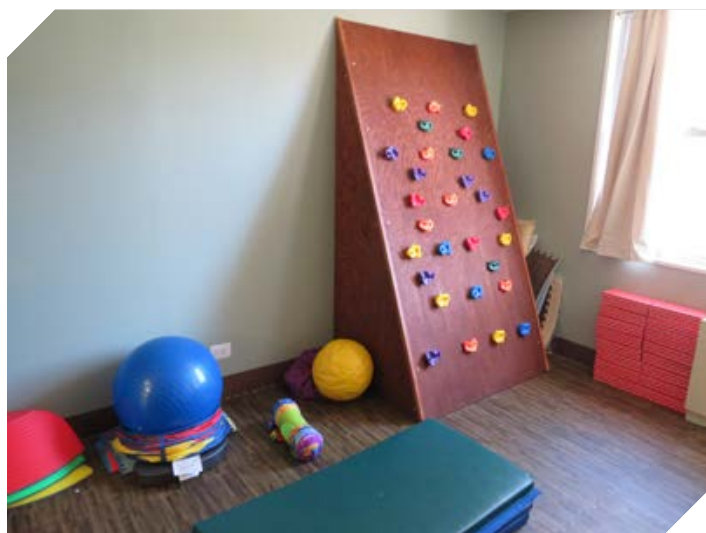
Among the equipment used in the gym, "our space features a sensory swing, a trampoline, a tunnel that kids can crawl through, a climbing wall, and a tabletop where they can work with kinetic sand, Play-Doh, water, and other textures to hone their fine motor skills," Delgado said. "Our fun, engaging environment often brings out the best in each child versus a therapy session conducted in a more sterile office setting, and our one-way windows allow parents to view their child's activity and progress without influencing or disrupting the child's session in any way, which has elicited positive feedback from parents and therapists alike."

According to Delgado, Richmond University Medical Center's establishment of the sensory gym has been a proud accomplishment for the hospital and a major differentiator on Staten Island.

"We used to only treat adults in our Rehabilitation Center, but children now account for 35 percent of our patient population and it's exciting to be able to offer them a safe, dedicated space rather than having to treat them in our adult gym and improvise," she said. "Kids are progressing by leaps and bounds in their therapy now and our hospital's pediatricians have been extremely proactive about identifying kids who have a need so that we can connect with them and their parents and pull them into our program."

"Children can get therapy in a lot of places on Staten Island, but our pediatric sensory gym and comprehensive team of rehabilitation specialists are a package that kids can't get anywhere else," Delgado confirmed. "Parents tell us that they experience so much peace of mind knowing that their child's therapy is being conducted in a safe, kid-friendly space that their child enjoys being in. In addition to inspiring children to greater heights, the fun setting also helps increase the likelihood that parents and children will come and be consistent with their therapy," she said.

As the hospital's entire Rehabilitation Center continues to expand in size and volume, Delgado believes that the sensory gym will follow suit. "We're hoping to grow the size of our pediatric sensory gym and add even more equipment in the future, but right now



A climbing wall, medicine balls, mats and building blocks are just some of the pieces of equipment used to help children in the new pediatric sensory gym.

we just want to get the message out to the Staten Island community that our sensory gym is open and available to all children who can benefit from it," said Delgado, who describes the design, construction, and introduction of the new space as a labor of love. "We're an approved provider of rehabilitation services for the New York City Department of Education, so children in public school who can't get therapy in school can now come here for therapy and experience our sensory gym."

March Observances

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

Month-Long

Brain Injury Awareness Month
Disability Awareness Month
Hemophilia Awareness Month
Myeloma Action Month
National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
National Endometriosis Month
National MS Education and Awareness Month
National Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month
National Kidney Month
National Nutrition Month
National Social Worker's Month
Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
Save Your Vision Month
Trisomy Awareness Month

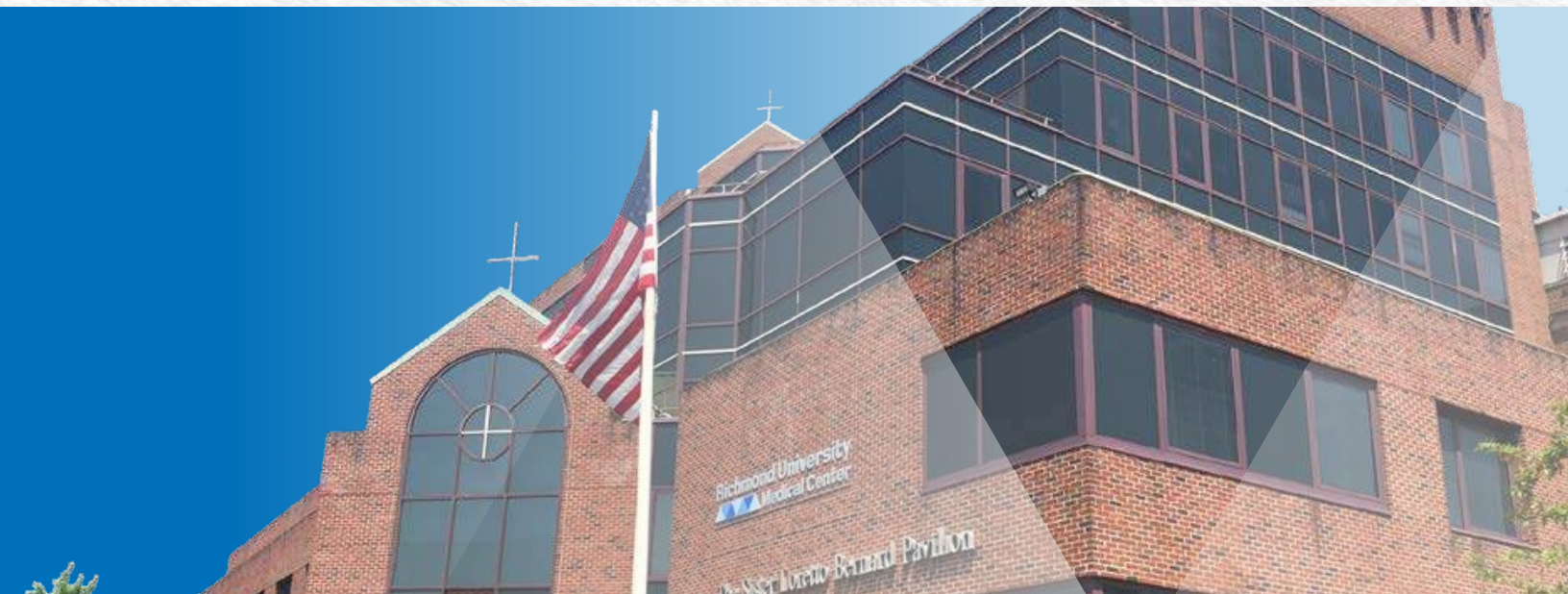
Week-Long Observances

National Aplastic Anemia and MDS Awareness Week: March 1 to 6
Endometriosis Awareness Week: March 3 to 9

Patient Safety Awareness Week: March 12 to 18
Brain Awareness Week: March 13 to 19
National Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week: March 12 to 18
National Sleep Awareness Week: March 12 to 18
National Poison Prevention Week: March 19 to 25

Recognition Days

World Birth Defects Day: March 3
World Kidney Day: March 9
National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: March 10
World Sleep Day: March 17
Kick Butts Day: March 19
National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: March 20
World Oral Health Day: March 20
World Down Syndrome Day: March 21
World Water Day: March 22
World TB Day: March 24
Wear Purple for Epilepsy Awareness Day: March 26
American Diabetes Alert Day: March 28
National Doctor's Day: March 30



New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Taylor Barizone — *Clinic Registrar*
Davere Cabell — *Building Services*
James Catalano — *Payroll Clerk*
Sonia Choi — *RN*
Caitlin Crowley — *RN*
Deduala Dissanayake — *RN*
Madison Easop — *EMT*
Ginaya Franks — *Food Service Worker*
Sandta Gil — *Building Services*
Shamika Hoilette — *Nursing Assistant*
Eric Isaksen — *EMT*

Rohit Kumar — *RN*
Sabrina Lau — *Staffing Clerk*
Millicent Leigh — *Assistant Director of Nursing*
Thaiz Leon — *Food Service Worker*
Andrew Li — *Clinical Lab Tech*
Deanna Nobriga — *RN*
Adenowo Oluwabumi — *Nursing Assistant*
Kareema Onitiro — *RN*
Nicole Packette — *Clinic Registrar*
Mohanakala Pakeerathan — *RN*
Violeta Parades — *RN*

Roni Marie Poidamoni — *RN*
Barbara Reitano — *Delivery Room Tech*
Jaida Rodriguez — *Nursing Assistant*
Dawnmarie Santora — *Payroll/Staffing*
Latima Scott — *Nursing Assistant*
Gisette Smith — *Nursing Assistant*
Tianna Thomas — *Food Service Worker*
Christopher Troche — *Building Services*
Anthony Varrone — *Security Guard*



ARNOLD OBEY/RUMC

5K RUN OR WALK

**Benefiting
the Wayne Zenna
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at
Richmond University Medical Center**

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

REGISTRATION AT 8AM

KIDS DASH STARTS AT 9AM • 5K RUN STARTS AT 9:30AM • 5K WALK STARTS AT 9:45AM

CLOVE LAKES PARK, 1150 CLOVE RD., STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

**TROPHIES
WILL BE GIVEN
TO THE
TOP 3 MALE AND
TOP 3 FEMALE
WINNERS.**

RUMC's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit has a survival rate of over 99%, one of the highest rates in the nation. Your support is needed for new, state-of-the-art equipment so we can continue to save lives and keep families together. **To register, visit rumcsi.org/5K.**



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

**Richmond University
Medical Center**

We Care For You Like Family, Because You Are.



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