

Department of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics Take Top Honors at RUMC's 9th Annual Patient Symposium



A panel of judges reviewed each presentation in detail before selecting the winners.



This year's symposium was well-attended by staff from almost every department.

On April 20, projects initiated over the past year at Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) focusing on increasing patient safety and quality of care were presented at the hospital's ninth annual Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Symposium, organized by the Resident run Patient Safety Council. A total of 19 entries were submitted from various departments, the top 3 were presented at the oral competition, and the remainder were presented for the poster competition.

The winning oral presentation was submitted by the Department of Medicine and was titled "Are Initial Inflammatory Marker Levels Predictive of Intensive Care Unit Transfer and Endotracheal Intubation in COVID-19 Pneumonia Admissions? A Retrospective Cohort Study at an Academic Medical Center." The winning team was Bachar Botrus, MD; Arun Umesh Mahtani, MD; Aditi Sinha, MD; Thu Minh Vu, MD; Sonia Bellara, MD; Sobha Atluri, MD; Yolande Mbome Engome, MD; Sini Bijoy, MD; Crystal Delp, MD; Sharr Let Oo, MD; Pavatharani Piratheepan, MD; May Breitling, MD; Shahnaz Akhtar, MD; Chong Vue; Daline Hundal; Edwina Alog; Hamza Tariq; Matthew Whitney; Savraj Saggi; Shane Sampson; Sneha Patel; TaeHoon Kim; Yogesh Prajapa Justin Cleveland; Kingsley Nwaobasi; Nicole Lorenzetti, PhD, MPH; and Jay Nfonoyim, MD, FACP.

The winner of the poster competition was submitted by the Pediatrics Department and was titled "Reducing Excessive Variability in Infant Sepsis Evaluation." The authors were Nolan Nielson and Loay Khateeb; co-authors

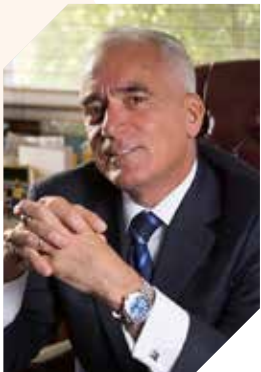
were Oluwapelumi Ade-kolawole, Jacqueline Shimamoto, Shana Yazdanpanah, Deepa Krishnan, Jean Gordon, RN, Carol Landron, Lenny Shats, and Kim Wagner. The supervising attending physicians for the winning entry were Johnathon LeBaron, DO, Ishita Kharode, MD, Teresa Lemma, MD, Kevin McDonough, MD, and Melissa Grageda, MD.

"Patients today look for doctors and hospitals that focus on patient safety and excellence in patient care," Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Pietro Carpenito, MD, said. "They put their lives in our hands and expect that they will have a good experience while they are with us. It is incumbent on us as healthcare providers to always remember that patients and their families are at the center of everything we do."

The theme of this year's symposium was "Patient Experience and the Art of Empathy and Compassion in Medicine." The keynote speaker was Clinton Coil, MD, MPH, FACEP. Dr. Coil is associate medical director for Quality and Safety at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; and Health Sciences associate clinical professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

This year's symposium was dedicated to the memory of Lauren Heather Blaine, DPM who passed away in July of last year. Dr. Blaine, was a member of RUMC's Podiatry Department and had recently started her second year of surgical podiatry residency at the time of her death.

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



I would like to take this opportunity to wish a Happy Nurses Month to the over 600 nurses who form the backbone of our hospital. Each May, we celebrate the dedication and compassion of not just our own nurses, but the over 4 million nurses providing care across our country.

Our nurses here at RUMC represent all walks of life, with ethnic, religious, cultural, and personal diversity as rich as the communities we serve. An organization is only as strong as its foundation, and our nurses are the cornerstone RUMC was built upon. Together we have weathered many challenges throughout the years, stood steadfast when our community needed us most, and have supported one another through the most difficult of times. It is an honor to walk these halls with each of you. Our board and management team are in continuous awe of the dedication and compassion you show each day to our patients and to one another.

The care you provide has always been of the highest quality, so we continue to remain deeply committed to providing you with facilities to match the standard you have set. Since the last Nurses Month, we have opened both an expanded and redesigned Medical Intensive Care Unit and a brand new state-of-the-art

Emergency Department. By end of this summer, we will cut the ribbon on a new world class Surgical Department featuring 10 advanced operating suites and larger pre-op and post-operative care areas. Later this year we will complete renovations on our Mother/Baby Unit, providing single bed suites to all our patients to enhance privacy and the family bonding experience. Next year we will begin work on our new Cardiovascular Center. As we did during the development of the Medical Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department, all of our upcoming projects will include input from our nurses and medical staff as we progress and we are committed to ensuring a continued safe and high quality work environment in each of these new units. And yes, there is a lot more coming down the pike!

So to all of our nurses, there are not enough words to express the gratitude our community owes to each and every one of you. Happy Nurses Month! Thank you to each and every staff member for unrelenting commitment to our entire organization!

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

I gave birth to my baby here a few days ago. I got induced and enjoyed the hospital. I wish I could do it over again. I was determined to give birth at this hospital because I was in the Bronx but I been getting prenatal care at RUMC. I had my own room, the rooms were nice and clean and the people were nice and helpful.

— Ebony M.

On 3/28/23 my mother went to urgi-care with stomach pain. They sent her to the ER and we went to RUMC's new emergency room. Great experience from the moment we walked into triage through a sonogram to being admitted. The staff is not only knowledgeable, but very kind and caring. I'm so happy to see Staten Island finally having top notch medical care.

— Kathleen S.

Remember When...

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

The first photo shows one of our operating rooms from around 1930 compared to a more recent photo of our existing operating rooms. In the center of the current photo you can see our da Vinci robotic surgery system. Coming later this year, a new world-class Surgical Department will arrive featuring 10 advanced operating suites and larger areas for pre-op and postoperative care. The new Surgical Department will be located directly above our new Emergency Department.



1930s



Present

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.



Richmond University Medical Center Launches *RUMC Vital Signs* Television Show

Just weeks after launching its new podcast series, *RUMC Connections*, Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) has now debuted its new television show entitled *RUMC Vital Signs*. Guests on the show include many of the doctors, nurses, and medical professionals at RUMC discussing the latest news, procedures, and treatments in a talk-show style format. The 30-minute show airs on public access channels across Staten Island cable systems and is filmed at the studios of Staten Island Community Television, located in Arlington.

RUMC Vital Signs is hosted by Alex Lutz, the hospital's vice president of Public Relations and Marketing. Lutz has been with RUMC for five years and has an

extensive background in public relations and journalism.

"We want to highlight the advanced services we offer right here at Richmond University Medical Center as well as the many primary care physicians and specialists located in offices throughout Staten Island and Brooklyn who are affiliated with our hospital," Lutz said. "*RUMC Vital Signs* is intended to help take the mystery out of medicine by imparting information that's good for people's health while also allowing viewers to get to know our doctors both personally and professionally while sitting right in their own living rooms."

The first episode of *RUMC Vital Signs* aired the week of April 17 and introduced

viewers to the hospital's new 35,000 sq. ft. Emergency Department that opened to the public this past January. Guests included RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE; Chair of Emergency Medicine Johnathon LeBaron, DO; and RUMC Trustee Katheryn Connors. Upcoming guests on future episodes include board certified neurosurgeon Douglas Cohen, MD, and a panel of nurses from several of the hospital's different units sharing their experiences in the nursing profession.

In addition to airing on public access channels on Staten Island cable systems, episodes of *RUMC Vital Signs* can be seen on RUMC's YouTube channel and its website, RUMCSI.org.

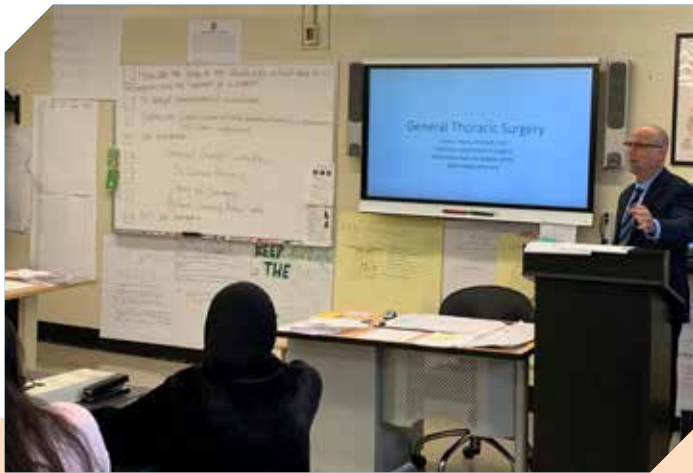
RUMC SAFE Nurses Participate in Training with Manhattan DA

Last month, several forensic trained nurses from Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) attended a training to better prepare them to provide expert testimony in criminal court in cases of sexual assault. The training session combined the expertise of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, Crime Victims Treatment Center, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, and experienced Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE). Since 2008, RUMC has been designated by the New York State Department of Health as a SAFE Center of Excellence, the only such center on Staten Island.



Photo: The RUMC nurses who participated in the Manhattan DA's training were Courtney Lee, RN; Esther Rose, RN; Christina Ferraro, RN; Alissa Fonte, RN; Samantha Frickenstein, RN; Ashlee Vega, RN; Robert Harris, RN; and Isa Shoneyin, RN.

Engaging our Community



Chair of Surgery Loren Harris, MD, spoke to students enrolled in the medical technology course at Tottenville High School. Dr. Harris discussed the field of surgery, shared his medical education background, and provided images and videos of surgical procedures he performed at RUMC. Last month, cardiologist and Chief of Women's Cardiovascular Health Fiona Shehaj, MD, and Chair of Medicine and Chief of Endocrinology Philip Otterbeck, MD, also spoke to students in the program, which helps them develop careers in the medical profession.

The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce held its FDNY/EMS Valor Awards Luncheon on April 19. Awards were presented to firefighters and EMS personnel who performed acts of valor in the line of duty. Presenting the award to the EMS recipients was RUMC Assistant Vice President, Emergency Services and Public Safety, William Amaniera (far right).



On May 6, cardiologist and Chief of Women's Cardiovascular Health **Fiona Shehaj, MD**, spoke to members of the Staten Island Chapter of AARP. Dr. Shehaj spoke about risk factors and symptoms of heart disease and how people can keep a healthy heart.

Chief of Neurology Allan B. Perel, MD, was announced by Staten Island Community Television as a winner of its Staten Island Community Media Awards. Dr. Perel won the Best Health Show category for *Conversations in Medicine*, which he hosts. The winners were selected by viewers of Staten Island public access television.

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



Nursing colleagues who celebrate Nurses Month with me know that every year I read “Nursing as Metaphor,” a New England Journal of Medicine essay coauthored by Claire Fagin, a former dean at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and Donna Diers, a former dean at the Yale University School of Nursing. I read it in memory of Donna, who was a mentor of mine. Even years later, when Donna sent me a book that she published with many of her great speeches, and suggested that “I change it up...” I just smiled. Nope.

I remain steadfast, as I quote from the essay: “Nurses are tough, canny, powerful, autonomous, and heroic.” This Nurses’ Month, I would like to thank all of my nurse colleagues at Richmond University Medical Center for the professional care that they provide to our patients and families. Each nurse selects a different specialty, such as emergency services, critical care, surgery, and many others. As unique to each one, they share

some common traits in addition to the ones that Claire Fagin and Donna Diers described above.

Let me describe what I believe we all share as nurses, especially from these years of 2020 to date. Nurses are resilient, generous, dedicated, and brilliant. In times of darkness, we provide the light. Nurses give comfort to those who they care for every hour of the day. Nurses are humble and also need to allow themselves to rest when needed.

I believe that Nursing is a Metaphor for Life.

Fagin, C. & Diers, D. (1983). Nurse as Metaphor. New England Journal of Medicine, 309(20), pp.116.

Accessed at: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJM198307143090220>

Congratulations to our Employees of the Month for April 2023:



Angela Castelli, RN
Assistant Nurse Manager, SLB6



Daniel Asoming,
Central Sterile Technician

Henry Orjuela,
Central Sterile Manager

RUMC Urologist Explains How a Minimally Invasive Procedure Enhances the Quality of Life for Men with an Enlarged Prostate



Richard Maggio, MD, FACS

As they get older, most men will experience an enlargement of their prostate, a normally walnut-sized, doughnut-shaped gland that rests at the base of the bladder and helps make some of the fluid in semen. But while it's a common function of the aging process and is typically non-cancerous, the symptoms associated with an enlarged prostate can cause discomfort, reduce quality of life, and lead to more serious

medical issues if left untreated.

Happily, men do not have to struggle with the fallout of an enlarged prostate, as a new and minimally invasive procedure called UroLift is delivering proven relief. In the following interview, Richard Maggio, MD, FACS, urologist at Richmond University Medical Center, discusses some of the symptoms of an enlarged prostate and how UroLift is helping men live their best life as they age:

How prevalent is prostate enlargement among men?

Dr. Maggio: Enlargement of the prostate (also known as benign prostatic hyperplasia, or BPH) is common and normal as men get older, with over 40% of men in their 50s, 70% of men in their 60s, and 90% of men in their 80s experiencing some degree of prostate enlargement. BPH is unrelated to prostate cancer, but many men with an enlarged prostate hesitate to see a urologist because they're afraid they have cancer, so this condition can sit for a long time.

What are the symptoms of an enlarged prostate?

Dr. Maggio: Symptoms include a frequent need to urinate both day and night, a weak, slow, or intermittent urinary stream, and/or a sense of incomplete emptying. There may also be difficulty or delay in starting urination, or the opposite (e.g., feeling an urgent need to urinate but an inability to get to the bathroom soon enough, so urine leaks on the way) — all conditions which can be uncomfortable, embarrassing, and/or which reduce quality of life. Medically, BPH can affect the bladder in the long term if it is not addressed because as the bladder wall thickens, starts to deteriorate, and loses its ability to contract, it has to push harder to get urine out. The longer the symptoms of BPH linger, urine can continue to get held back in the bladder until the volume gets so large that the man cannot urinate at all, which can lead to recurring urinary tract infections and, ultimately, kidney failure. There's no reversing it once it gets to that state, so the key is to address the condition earlier on to stop it from advancing to that point.

How has prostate enlargement been treated in the past?

Dr. Maggio: Different medications are often administered to relax or shrink the prostate, but they have sexual side effects and can potentially

affect blood pressure among older men or those on hypertensive medication, both of whom can be at risk of fainting or experiencing light-headedness from BPH medication.

What is the UroLift procedure?

Dr. Maggio: UroLift has been performed for the past decade and more men are opting for it every day because it's a proven alternative to medication or major surgery. A safe and minimally invasive approach to treating an enlarged prostate, UroLift is the only prostate procedure that doesn't involve heating, cutting, or destroying prostate tissue. During this painless, 30-minute outpatient procedure done under sedation, we put implants in the prostate, similar to sutures, that squeeze the prostate tissue and open the prostate. Following a 7- to 10-day post-operative recovery period and based on results of the American Urological Association's "International Prostatism Symptom Score" (IPSS) — a survey, which grades the severity of one's BPH symptoms — patient symptoms are significantly reduced following UroLift. I've personally seen at least a 50% improvement in symptoms among my UroLift patients.

How effective is UroLift?

Dr. Maggio: The gold standard procedure for treating prostate enlargement — known as transurethral resection of the prostate, or TURP — involves surgery to scrape prostate tissue out, requires an overnight hospital stay and a catheter for 24 hours, and can cause bleeding, infection, and side effects; in terms of outcomes, 9% of patients who undergo TURP will need to be retreated at five years because their prostate continues to grow. While studies show that 13% of patients who have UroLift will need to be retreated at five years, these are great results for a minimally invasive procedure. At the same time, UroLift avoids surgery and the need to be on medication, which is very important to many patients. In the end, UroLift is a life-changing procedure that enhances quality of life and is covered by all or most insurance carriers.

What final messages would you like to share with community members regarding prostate enlargement and UroLift?

Dr. Maggio: I advise patients who are interested in the procedure to seek out a provider who performs it frequently and understands the nuances of the process. We perform UroLift a dozen or more times a month at Richmond University Medical Center and are a center of excellence for the UroLift procedure. Ultimately, men shouldn't be afraid of the symptoms they're experiencing because they're all part of the aging process and we encourage them to see a urologist to determine their best course of treatment.

Dr. Maggio can be reached at Richmond Health Network's Urology Services Center, located at 1200 South Ave. For appointments, call 718-370-1400.

May Observances

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

Month-Long

ALS Awareness Month
Arthritis Awareness Month
Better Hearing and Speech Month
Better Sleep Month
Bladder Cancer Awareness Month
Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month
Brain Cancer Awareness Month
Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes Awareness Month
Food Allergy Awareness Month
Global Employee Health and Fitness Month
Healthy Vision Month
Hepatitis Awareness Month
High Blood Pressure Awareness Month
Huntington's Disease Awareness Month
Lupus Awareness Month
Lyme Disease Awareness Month
Maternal Mental Health Month
Mental Health Awareness Month
National Asthma and Allergies Awareness Month
National Celiac Disease Awareness Month
National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month
National Nurses Month
National Osteoporosis Awareness Month
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
National Stroke Awareness Month
National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month
National Teen Self-Esteem Month
Necrotizing Fasciitis Awareness Month
Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month
Older Americans Month
Preeclampsia Awareness Month
Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Week-Long Observances

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week: May 1 to 6
National Nurses Week: May 6 to 12
National Stuttering Awareness Week: May 8 to 13
National Women's Health Week: May 14 to 20

Recognition Days

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week: May 1
International Scurvy Awareness Day: May 2
World Asthma Day: May 2
World Hand Hygiene Day: May 5
World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day: May 6
National Nurses Day: May 6
National Women's Checkup Day: May 8
World Ovarian Cancer Day: May 8
National Lipid Day: May 10
World Lupus Day: May 10
International Awareness Day for Chronic Immunological and Neurological Diseases: May 12
International Nurses Day: May 12
ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia International Awareness Day: May 12
Hyperemesis Gravidarum Awareness Day: May 15
World Hypertension Day: May 17
HIV Vaccine Awareness Day: May 18
Hepatitis Testing Day: May 19
National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: May 19
World IBD Day: May 19
World Autoimmune and AutoInflammatory Arthritis Day: May 20
World Preeclampsia Day: May 22
World Schizophrenia Day: May 24
World Thyroid Day: May 25
National Heat Awareness Day: May 26
World Digestive Health Day: May 29
World MS Day: May 30
National Senior Health and Fitness Day: May 31
World No Tobacco Day: May 31

New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Uzo-Joy Alara — *Nursing Assistant, SLB-4*
Evan Bennett — *Nursing Assistant, Emergency*
Moiria Bille — *Trauma Program Manager, Trauma Services*
Ommyia Butt — *Medical Assistant, Emergency*
Andrew Cole — *Mental Health Tech, Child/Adolescent*
James Collins — *Administrative Assistant, Quality Management*
Monica DeRosa — *RN, SLB-4*
Nikki DeRosa — *RN, SLB-5*
Melinda Dilla — *Building Services, Housekeeping*
Balaj Dongerkery — *Nursing Assistant, Emergency*
Shavanna Dudley — *L&D Tech, Labor and Delivery*
Nicholas Ernst — *Desktop Analyst, IT*
Ruba Farah — *Classroom Sub, Headstart*

Marvella Francis — *RN, SICU*
Siobhan Garrity — *RN, PACU/AMBI*
Javier Guevara-Nieves — *Nursing Assistant, PACU/AMBI*
Michael Iadarola — *RN, Intern Emergency*
Curtley James — *Building Services, Housekeeping*
Hosame Kaid — *RN, SLB-4*
Nilburk Kurt — *Registrar/Discharge Clk, Ophthalmology*
Sharon Merritt — *Social Worker, Care Coordination*
Patricia Militello — *Clinical Lab Tech, Blood Bank*
Courtney Morton — *Echo Tech, Radiology*
Michael Occhiogrosso — *RN, Emergency*
Olatakunboh Odumbo — *RN, CPEP Psych ER*
Eric Peng — *Clinical Systems Analyst*
Joanne Placide — *RN, SLB-4*

Rebecca Rosario — *Registrar/Discharge Clk, Patient Access*
Eid Said — *Respiratory Therapist, Respiratory*
Adbulla Said — *Respiratory Therapist, Respiratory*
Toni Marie Salpietro — *RN, Labor and Delivery*
Letha Samuel — *RN, SLB-4*
Adelyne Sanchez — *Care Manager, SIMH*
Nicole Sappia — *LMSW, Care Coordination*
Bojkena Selmamaj — *Nurse Manager, PACU*
Elizabeth Soto — *Assistant Teacher, Headstart*
Nermine Subasic — *RN, Intern Emergency*
Lidy Telsaint — *Respiratory Therapist, Respiratory*
Theresa Tierney — *Social Worker, Psychiatry*
Jeffrey Valente — *Trauma Data Analyst, Trauma Services*
Wendy Ann Velez — *RN, Emergency*

Richmond University
 **Medical Center**



Monday, May 22, 2023
Richmond County Country Club

Honoring:

Joseph Ferrara

Principal, BFC Partners

and

Loren J. Harris, MD FACS FCCP

Chair, Department of Surgery

Register at www.rumcsi.org/golf

