

Richmond University Medical Center

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Richmond University Medical Center Remembers September 11, 2001

Hospital Staff, FDNY, NYPD, and local Military Veterans Mark 22nd Anniversary

Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) paid tribute to the victims of the attacks on September 11, 2001, with a ceremony in front of the hospital's 9/11 memorial. Hospital staff, NYPD, FDNY, and community leaders participated along with members of the Blue Knights law enforcement motorcycle organization, FDNY motorcycle organization, and Rolling Thunder military veterans motorcycle chapter. The ceremony included tributes, a moment of silence, and reflections from community leaders who wanted to share their thoughts and memories of that day 22 years ago.



Commanding Officer of the 120th Police Precinct, Deputy Inspector Steve Spataro, spoke about the importance of remembering the events of 9/11/01 even more than 20 years after the events of that day.

"Today, our RUMC family keeps all the families of September 11, 2001, in our hearts and in our minds. Families of not only those lost on that day, but those lost in the years that followed due to 9/11-related illnesses," RUMC President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said. "As we remember the events of September 11, 2001, today, let us also use today as a moment to teach younger generations about what happened that day and how our country came together at one of the darkest moments in our history. As the years progress, we should never lose sight of what occurred 22 years ago and its impact. Continuing to teach our children and future generations about September 11, 2001, as tragic as they are, is perhaps the best way to honor those lost and to keep their memory alive, even if we never knew them."

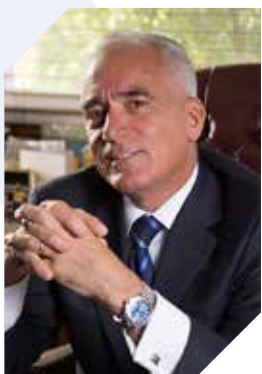
Among those in attendance were representatives from many of the borough's elected officials and community organizations along with the Commanding Officer of the 120th Police Precinct, Deputy Inspector Steve Spataro; the Commanding Officer of the 122th Police Precinct, Deputy Inspector Ebony Washington; FDNY EMS Division Chief Luis Basso; New York State Assembly Member Charles Fall; New York State Assembly Member Michael Reilly; and New York State Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo.

Also in attendance were many representatives of local veterans groups and active members of the FDNY, NYPD, and EMS. Around the hospital's memorial were nearly 300 American flags, one for each person lost on September 11, 2001, who had ties to Staten Island.



The Honor Guard proceeds to RUMC's 9/11/01 memorial to officially begin the hospital's remembrance ceremony.

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



You may have recently seen the broad media coverage our hospital received regarding the incredible story of two adopted siblings, Frank and Victoria. Victoria, now 19 years old, was found abandoned in a restroom here at Richmond University Medical Center. If you have not yet seen this account, I urge you to visit SILive.com or the website of any local news outlet to find out more, including the shocking discovery they made after further investigating their backgrounds.

Central to this story is Claudia Beadle, who has been a cardiac technician here at RUMC for nearly 40 years. Claudia found Victoria behind a toilet on the main floor, which is now an electrical closet. She rushed the days-old Victoria to pediatrics, where she was found to be in good health. In the days that followed, Claudia spent time visiting Victoria in the nursery, feeding her and taking on the role of a surrogate mother until Child Protective Services came, placing Victoria up for adoption.

Shortly after the adoption, through a mutual friend who is also a nurse here at RUMC, Claudia met Victoria's adopted parents, Angela and Denis. A bond of friendship was quickly established and as Victoria grew up, Claudia was a presence in her life, attending parties and family gatherings. During all this time, Victoria didn't know who Claudia was, other than a friend of the family.

This year, Victoria and Frank decided to learn more about their background. Victoria's parents decided to reveal who Claudia really is. On August 15, Claudia and Victoria reunited after not seeing each other for several years and side by side, they returned to the small room where Victoria was found 19 years ago.

There is much more to their story, so as I mentioned before, I urge

you to visit the website of one of our local news outlets to find out more. I want to single out and thank Claudia for embodying the true spirit and mission of Richmond University Medical Center. Others might have taken Victoria to pediatrics those many years ago and that would have been the end of the story. Instead, Claudia cared for Victoria as if she were her own and continued to be part of her life. In fact, while here in August, Claudia continued to refer to Victoria as "her baby." Thank you, Claudia, for personifying the best of what our hospital is all about and for reminding us all to hit the pause button and stop and think about the power each of us have with our interpersonal interactions. We control to a large extent the positive and the negative.

Like Claudia, many of you form a connection with our patients, a bond that does not often end when they leave our care. It is what makes our hospital and our staff so special. We are a small community hospital, and I find that these relationships happen more frequently than in larger health care facilities or systems. I read about it in the many letters I get from patients and I see it as I round the hallways. It speaks to who we are and the trust our patients place in us. It is something we should never lose sight of or allow to diminish. It is what makes Richmond University Medical Center stand apart from the rest. Like Claudia showed 19 years ago, it is the care and compassion we exhibit every day, in a moment's notice or even in the face of the unexpected, that makes our hospital unlike anywhere else. Thank you for all that you do for our patients and thank you, Claudia, for personifying the heart and soul of Richmond University Medical Center.

Remember the Power of One — You Make A Difference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Daniel J. Messina in dark ink.

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

Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

For Ernestina Nyquist, RN,

We feel so blessed to have had you with us during the labor and delivery of our son back in May. Your presence was bold, reassuring, tender, true, and nourishing, especially in that final hour of labor. You really spoke life into me. We are thankful to have met you on our baby's journey.

— Labor & Delivery Patient

I know it is not often that people write notes like this, particularly when it has to do with healthcare services in the five boroughs

of New York. But in this case, I have to pay a compliment to the entire staff at Richmond University Medical Center. They were kind, compassionate, and incredibly responsive.

— Nicholas G.

I wish all of you the best of health. You took into consideration my health and made me well! I thank all of you for giving me the best care ever. With much love, peace, health, and happiness to all. Enjoy every day of your life. I realize that your health is the most important thing in life because without it, we have nothing!

— Louis P.

Engaging Our Community



Richmond University Medical Center celebrated the graduation of its Emergency Department nursing student externs. The program, now in its sixth year, provides the externs with exposure to the Emergency Department setting prior to becoming a licensed RN for those considering a career in emergency nursing. Past externs have returned to RUMC as registered nurses now familiar with the hospital and its operations and having already developed relationships with their fellow nurses, physicians, and medical personnel.



On August 14, Samaritan Daytop Foundation celebrated the work of President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, for his commitment to improving and maintaining the health and wellness of individuals on Staten Island. Dr. Messina was honored during the Foundation's 16th Annual Golf Invitational and Dinner at the Richmond County Country Club.

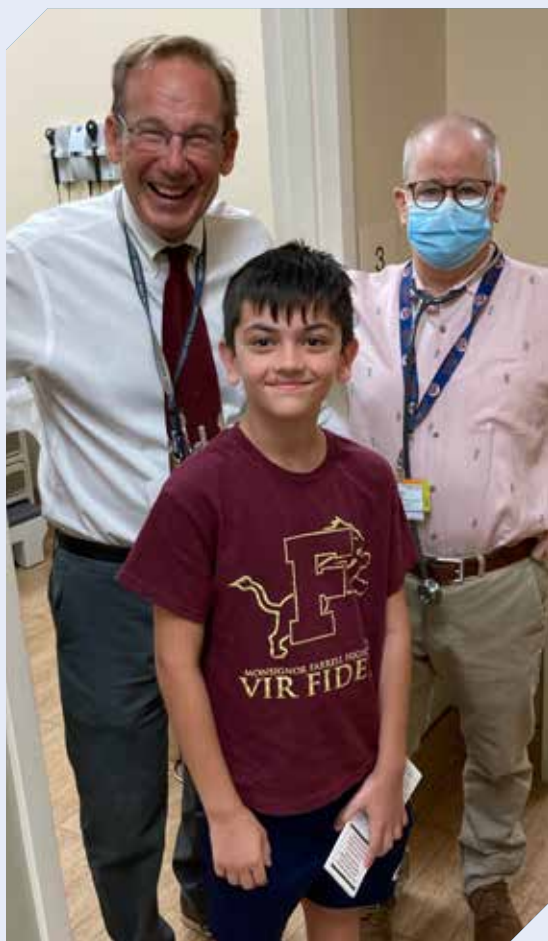


Recently, Luv on a Leash therapy dogs, a project of Pride Center of Staten Island, visited Richmond University Medical Center, providing comfort and relaxation to hospital staff. Thanks to our partnership with Pride Center, the dogs will be returning to the hospital weekly to continue providing comfort to our staff and our patients.



Subaru of America and Island Subaru donated over 900 pairs of socks to the hospital for distribution to patients. Longtime partners of Richmond University Medical Center, Subaru of America and Island Subaru also donated blankets to the hospital's Center for Cancer Care back in June. Pictured are (l-r) Joseph Burt, Vice President, Development; Tom Cicatello, Senior Salesperson, Island Subaru; Maureen Harrington, Director of Care Coordination; and John Espinoza, General Sales Manager, Island Subaru.

Richmond University Medical Center Holds Athlete Evaluation Day



Mark Sherman, MD, student-athlete Thomas Feretic, and Kevin McDonough, MD

On August 12, Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) provided nearly 50 free pre-season physicals to New York City student-athletes at the hospital's Immediate Care/Primary Care/Walk-in Center, located inside the Dr. Krishne Urs Medical Pavilion at 1161 Victory Blvd. The physical exams were provided by a team of RUMC physicians and nurse practitioners led by board certified orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist, Mark Sherman, MD.

"Historically a lot of students who play sports don't get a full physical," Dr. Sherman said. "The concept of a pre-season physical is to avoid a quick sign-off on an athlete's health. Our medical and orthopedic team conducted very thorough health background checks and physical exams. Our goal is to send these athletes into their sports a little safer."

The evaluations included a comprehensive physical exam to minimize the risks associated with sports participation. The exams included a check of each athlete's vision, cardiovascular fitness, and muscle reflexes, among other tests. Students who received physicals not only came from different schools, but also participate in a variety of different sports.

"We are proud to prepare our student-athletes for their upcoming seasons," President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE said. "A sports physical now ensures they start their season off healthy and ready to represent their school on the field. We often hear about student-athletes who encounter health issues during practice and during their season, sometimes with tragic results. Having them undergo a comprehensive, thorough exam such as those provided by our RUMC team can give parents and coaches peace of mind and if something is diagnosed give them the ability to have it addressed immediately."

The evaluations were open to student athletes from private and public high schools. With the accompaniment of a parent or guardian and a completed medical form, students were able to take advantage of the opportunity and obtain their necessary pre-season physicals. Students from every borough except the Bronx showed up for the free pre-season physicals provided by RUMC.

Watch New Episodes of RUMC Vital Signs



EPISODE 5: EXPLORING NEUROSURGERY WITH DOUGLAS COHEN, MD

Neurosurgery is the medical specialty that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of patients experiencing issues with their brain, spinal cord, spinal column, and peripheral nerves throughout the body. In this episode, Douglas Cohen, MD, board certified neurosurgeon and Harvard Medical School

graduate, discusses conditions he and his colleagues in Richmond University Medical Center's Brain and Spine Center treat from emergencies to common disorders.

To watch this episode and others covering a range of health-related topics, scan the QR code.



RUMC Vital Signs brings you up close and personal with the people providing care, services, and support at Richmond University Medical Center. **Airing on Community Media of Staten Island Channel 34 and available at www.RUMCSI.org**, each episode of RUMC Vital Signs covers the latest trends in medicine and provides in-depth information on the services provided at Richmond University Medical Center.

For People Coping with Rheumatologic Disorders, RUMC Team Provides Promising Avenues for Relief



Daniel DeMizio, MD, Chief of Rheumatology

Experts estimate that more than 50 million Americans suffer from rheumatologic disorders, which can include any of a number of autoimmune and inflammatory conditions affecting the musculoskeletal system, blood vessels, skin, nerves, or internal organs.

In the following interview, Daniel DeMizio, MD, Chief of Rheumatology at Richmond University Medical Center, discusses some of the most common rheumatologic conditions, the specific conditions of vasculitis and autoimmune inflammatory arthritis, and the latest treatments that are proving to make a positive difference in patients' lives.

Q: What does the field of rheumatology involve?

Dr. DeMizio: Rheumatology is a complex and often misunderstood field that involves the diagnosis and treatment of over 200 different musculoskeletal and systemic autoimmune conditions. The field is all encompassing because autoimmune issues can affect any part of the body. While they often affect joints and muscles, they can also have profound effects on the lungs, skin, heart, kidneys, and other major organs. As internal medicine physicians, rheumatologists are trained to think about the entire patient holistically and we often work closely with other specialists, including orthopedists, cardiologists, pulmonologists, nephrologists, dermatologists and more.

Q: What are some common rheumatologic conditions?

Dr. DeMizio: Osteoarthritis, the most prevalent form of arthritis, is a very common rheumatologic disease that often develops as people age. Other common

rheumatologic conditions include fibromyalgia, gout, sports injuries such as bursitis and rotator cuff issues, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), lupus, vasculitis, psoriatic arthritis, scleroderma, and Sjogren's syndrome, which affects the salivary glands and can affect the lungs and heart. While many of these conditions can result in pain that needs to be managed, most are not imminently life threatening, although certain conditions like lupus or RA can lead to lung disease, cardiac disease, or renal failure and need to be closely monitored.

Q: Please discuss the specific condition known as vasculitis.

Dr. DeMizio: Vasculitis is an umbrella term describing a set of inflammatory conditions affecting the blood vessels — from large blood vessels such as the aorta to medium-sized ones that go to organs like the kidneys and tiny ones that go to our skin and other organs. Vasculitis can cause blood vessels to dilate (such as in the case of an aneurysm), narrow (as in the case of stenosis) or undergo necrosis (the death of blood vessels). Causes of vasculitis often involve a complex interplay between genetics/family history, lifestyle behaviors/risk factors (such as smoking), environmental factors and/or the presence of certain viruses. Symptoms of vasculitis can include malaise, fatigue, joint pain, unexplained fevers, a new rash that persists, severe headaches in the front of head, joint pain/swelling, and muscle aches. The severity of the condition depends on which blood vessels are affected and which organ(s) they supply blood to.

Q: Please discuss the specific condition known as autoimmune inflammatory arthritis.

Dr. DeMizio: Like vasculitis, inflammatory arthritis is an umbrella term for many types of specific conditions. RA and psoriatic arthritis, the most common forms of autoimmune inflammatory arthritis, can cause joint stiffness and/or red-hot swollen joints, especially in the hands and feet, which can make it challenging to get through the day. Stiffness, difficulty making a fist and an inability to get moving, especially in the morning, are distinguishing features of inflammatory arthritis.

Q: What is the state of treatment for rheumatologic conditions?

Dr. DeMizio: Years back, many patients were treated with injectable gold with limited success. In the 1970s and 1980s, patients with rheumatologic diseases could be given steroids, which, while effective, are not ideal long-term therapies due to their risk of toxicity and side effects when used for long periods. Overall, there were not many effective treatments for rheumatologic disorders in the past, but that has changed thanks to a recent explosion of effective immunosuppressive treatments on the market, including injection therapies, small molecule oral therapies, and infusion medications, all of which target the specific cells implicated in a patient's condition. As a goal, we always try to get patients in remission and wean them off medication, and some do achieve remission and can come off their medication within one to two years of treatment. While this is not necessarily the outcome for all patients, 40 percent to 60 percent of patients will have a good response to their medication and experience some level of relief, which is a win for those who previously struggled to open a jar or engage in other activities of daily living.

Q: Finally, what message of hope can you share with those suffering from rheumatologic conditions?

Dr. DeMizio: Richmond University Medical Center's strong group of multidisciplinary specialists are well versed in the broad range of rheumatologic conditions and become part of the patient's comprehensive care team. We have seen every condition, even the rarest of the rare, and can call upon our vast network of knowledgeable and experienced team members to provide their expertise in the best interests of each patient..

For appointments with Dr. DeMizio, call 718-720-1675 or 718-984-9658. Dr. DeMizio has office hours at 1800 Clove Road, Staten Island NY 10304 and at 4434 Amboy Road, Staten Island NY 10312.

New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Stephanie Agyemang — *Mental Health Tech*
 Oluwapelumi Amusu — *Unit Clerk*
 Ernestina Araujo — *Nursing Assistant*
 Shannon Barnes — *Mental Health Tech*
 Debra Bostwick — *Program Supervisor*
 Shakeya Butler — *Nursing Assistant*
 Julia Calvo — *RN Intern*
 Ismael Campas — *Security Guard*
 Lisa Carlucci — *Unit Clerk*
 Xin Chin — *Clinical Research Coord*
 Loria Clemmons — *Nursing Assistant*
 Daniella Cucuzza — *RN*
 Colleen Datell — *X-ray Tech*
 Monee Davis — *Nursing Assistant*
 Natalya Dorum — *RN*
 Chazzy Escobar — *Nursing Assistant*
 Nicole Fragetti — *Nursing Assistant*

Patience Gargar — *Nursing Assistant*
 Denise Holliday — *Unit Clerk*
 Stephanie Javier — *Physician Assistant*
 Mark Jirak — *RN*
 Tyshawn Jones — *Case Aide*
 Amara Lamassa — *RN Intern*
 Ron Livshits — *RN*
 Christian Lopez — *Nursing Assistant*
 Denise Martindale — *Nursing Assistant*
 Alyea McBride — *Nursing Assistant*
 Zarea McCall — *Nursing Assistant*
 Karyn McNeil — *Ultra Sound Tech*
 Tanya Monroe — *Nurse Practitioner*
 Oluwasohunla Oladipo — *RN*
 Habib Olagoke — *Clerical*
 Lydia Osman — *Central Sterile Tech*
 Jeffrey Panko — *RN*

Stephine Pate — *Nursing Assistant*
 Bhavyakumar Patel — *Physical Therapy Asst*
 Paul Paxis — *Nursing Assistant*
 Maria Picardal — *Physical Therapist*
 Artenisa Pinderi — *Nursing Assistant*
 Jessica Rodriguez — *Nursing Assistant*
 Nikolas Ruggerio — *RN Intern*
 Robert Simpson — *Nursing Assistant*
 Kristina Smith — *RN*
 Derrick Song — *Unit Clerk*
 Christina Suarez — *Medicaid Application Specialist*
 Daniel Torres — *Security Guard*
 Betsy Ucciardino — *RN*
 Jenna Veneziano — *RN*
 Sylvia Wasserman — *Genetic Counselor*
 Tintu Yohannan — *Pharmacist*

Catch Up on the Latest Episodes of RUMC Connections Podcast



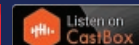
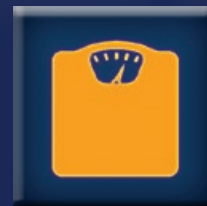
Through RUMC Connections, you will meet the medical professionals that make Richmond University Medical Center thrive. RUMC Connections also provides useful information about maintaining your own health and provides answers to some of your own medical questions.

Episodes 13 & 14: Pediatric Surgery:

When a family is faced with emergency or elective surgery for their child, they may be confronted with mixed emotions, fear, and apprehension. In this episode, RUMC's board certified pediatric surgeon, Brian Gilchrist, MD, walks us through what it is like to be a pediatric surgeon who performs more than 700 procedures a year. Dr. Gilchrist is one of fewer than 500 pediatric surgeons in the United States.

To listen to these episodes and others covering a range of health-related topics, scan the QR code.

rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast



September Observances

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

Month-Long:

Blood cancer awareness
Childhood cancer awareness
Food safety education
Healthy aging
National atrial fibrillation awareness
National childhood obesity awareness
National cholesterol education
National platelet disorder (ITP) awareness
National pediculosis/head lice prevention
National recovery month
National sickle cell month
Newborn screening awareness
Ovarian cancer awareness
Pain awareness
Polycystic ovary syndrome month
Prostate cancer awareness
Sepsis awareness
Sexual health awareness
Sports eye safety awareness
World Alzheimer's month

Week Long:

National suicide prevention week: Sept. 10 to 16
National folic acid awareness week: Sept. 10 to 16
Falls prevention awareness week: Sept. 17 to 23
Malnutrition awareness week: Sept. 18 to 22
Fungal disease awareness week: Sept. 18 to 22
National rehabilitation awareness week: Sept. 18 to 24
Global ITP week: Sept. 25 to 30

Recognition Days:

World sexual health day: Sept. 4
World suicide prevention day: Sept. 10
World sepsis day: Sept. 13
National celiac disease awareness day: Sept. 13
National HIV/AIDS and aging awareness day: Sept. 18
Get ready for flu day: Sept. 19
World Alzheimer's day: Sept. 21
World lung day: Sept. 25
Mesothelioma awareness day: Sept. 26
World rabies day: Sept. 28
National women's health and fitness day: Sept. 27
World heart day: Sept. 29
Sport purple for platelets day: Sept. 29

Congratulations to our Employees of the Month!



JACK SCENNA
SENIOR DESKTOP ANALYST
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



AMANDA BROOKS, MSN, RN
MANAGER, PEDIATRIC TRAUMA

Richmond University
Medical Center

Foundation
17th Annual

Gala

BLACK TIE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

TO HONOR GINA GUTZEIT & MARIANNE LABARBERA, MD

at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1100 South Ave, Staten Island, NY 10314

For more information, please visit rumcsi.org/gala
or contact Gina Ferreri **718.818.2106**

