

## Richmond University Medical Center Unveils Lucille & Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion



*Jay Chazanoff cuts the ribbon to officially unveil the new \$42 million surgical pavilion that bears his name as well as that of his late wife, Lucille.*

On December 13, over 300 people were on hand as Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) officially unveiled its new \$42 million Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion. Located one floor above RUMC's new James P. Molinaro Emergency Department, which opened in January of this year, the nearly 40,000 square foot pavilion includes 23 pre- and post-operation bays for patients, 10 new technologically-advanced surgical rooms, larger nursing stations, natural lighting, advanced infection control technology, a family waiting area, and spacious hallways created to improve staff and patient flow. Three of the operating suites are specifically designed to accommodate robotic surgery systems.

The ceremony was held on what would have been Lucille Chazanoff's 77th birthday. During his remarks, Jay Chazanoff thanked everyone for attending, expressed how RUMC has been an important part of both his and Lucille's lives, and shared fond memories of his late wife.

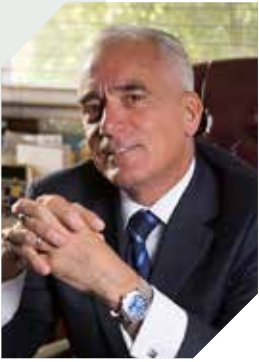
The new Surgical Pavilion is named for the longtime RUMC supporters. Both served as members of the

RUMC Foundation. Lucille passed away in 2020. Their names adorn the interior entrance to the new pavilion and are prominently featured on the outside facing the front of the RUMC campus.

"We would not be here today if not for the years of friendship and never-ending love Lucille and Jay have for our hospital," President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said during the ceremony. "Your respect of our rich history, admiration for what we accomplish in the present, and your belief in the strong future of Richmond University Medical Center, can be summed up in one word: passion. You have a passion for this hospital, the people that bring it to life, and the people that it cares for."

In addition to family, friends, community leaders, and RUMC staff, also on hand to celebrate the event were Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella, New York State Assembly Members Charles Fall and Michael Reilly, and New York City Council Members Joseph Borelli and David Carr.

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



Happy Holidays to an incredible team! Without your talent, teamwork, and tenacity, we would not be looking back on such a successful year. Working with you this year has been a privilege in many ways, and I am so grateful for all of your hard work. Last month I shared with you a look back on our past year as we gathered for the Thanksgiving holiday, a time to reflect and be grateful. As we approach this holiday season and stand on the doorstep of a

new year, I think it only fitting to look ahead.

Much the way we started 2023, we will begin the new year with a new facility serving its first patients. Last year it was our James P. Molinaro Emergency Department treating its first patients. Now we celebrate our new state-of-the-art Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion and the first of many critical and lifesaving procedures to be performed within its advanced surgical suites. This unit will no doubt be a game changer for not only our hospital, but for surgical care throughout the metropolitan region.

Our new on-site cogeneration, or Co-Gen, power plant will go on line shortly into 2024. Cogeneration is the simultaneous generation of electrical energy and usable heat from a single primary energy source. This will allow us to create our own power. It will also increase overall energy efficiency, lower operational costs, and boost self-sufficiency while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants.

The complete expansion and renovation of our Mother/Baby Unit will also be completed. All existing maternity rooms will be converted into single-bed suites with full bathrooms, additional amenities, and more space for guests designed to enhance privacy and family bonding. Underutilized existing space will be converted into additional one-bed suites so we do not lose any of our current bed capacity.

Lastly, our window improvement project will also be completed next year. Over 700 windows throughout the hospital will be replaced with hurricane-force resistant windows. We will also begin construction of our new Joan and Alan Bernikow Heart and Vascular Institute, yet another state-of-the-art unit that will revolutionize cardiac and vascular care services in our region. There will be much more to come on this new unit as 2024 progresses.

A holiday season full of excitement is upon us as you can see. As this year comes to close, I once again wish to express my never-ending gratitude for all you have given to our community, our patients, and our institution. Without your dedication and compassion, our patients have no heroes to care for them. Our community has no local hospital to meet their needs. Simply put, you are our cornerstone. Thank you for all that you do.

I also want to thank our Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, and the Auxiliary for their support throughout these past 12 months. Your support and passion for our mission and our entire RUMC Family is never forgotten and appreciated beyond words.

So happy holidays to you and your families. May the season be one of joy, celebration, and warmth. May the year to come be filled with health and new blessings.

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

Sincerely,

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

## In Memorium



Tintu



James and Angela

**On November 20**, our Richmond University Medical Center family lost Pharmacist Tintu Yohannan, 26. Tintu recently graduated with her doctorate of pharmacy from Long Island University. Her first job was as a pharmacist at a local CVS and she started her position in the Pharmacy Department at RUMC only four months ago. The family has set up a GoFundMe page. To make a donation: [www.gofundme.com/f/mpcnp9-tintu-yohannan](https://www.gofundme.com/f/mpcnp9-tintu-yohannan).

**On December 4**, the RUMC Family lost Senior Paramedic James Barghaan, Shield#7857. James was the husband of RUMC Lead Paramedic Angela Ciocia, and a member of the RUMC family for nearly 30 years, starting as an emergency medical technician before becoming a paramedic.

He was named EMT of the year in 1997. He and Angela were married for 25 years.



## Engaging Our Community



**On November 21, the staff of our Silberstein Clinic served a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to their clients.** The Silberstein Clinic serves individuals 18 and older who are seeking treatment for substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. The staff wanted to show their support and thanks for their clients.



**On November 20, our president and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, joined Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella and local community leaders to celebrate local organ donors who despite their passing, have left a legacy of life.** Among those in attendance were president & CEO of LiveOnNY, Leonard Achan, RN, MA, ANP; and the families of Brittany McCarthy and Nicholas D'Amora, two young Staten Islanders who passed suddenly but through their individual decisions to be organ donors, have saved close to 10 people who were in need of organ transplants.



**On November 15, Richmond University Medical Center proudly sponsored the Old Bermuda Inn's annual Salute to Veterans Breakfast.** Close to 200 military veterans attended the event held to honor their service to our country. RUMC chair of Medicine and chief of Endocrinology, Philip Otterbeck, MD, was the guest speaker, discussing diabetes care and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



**On November 1, staff from Richmond University Medical Center held a moment of silence to remember those lost to lung cancer. November is National Lung Cancer Awareness Month.** In partnership with the American Lung Association, RUMC held a "Turquoise Takeover," asking people to wear the color, which is the official color of lung cancer awareness.

## Congratulations to our NYC Marathon Runners!



On November 5, Richmond University Medical Center was well-represented in the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon. Congratulations to our chief, Cardiovascular Department,



Francesco Rotatori, MD, who finished in 3:11:26; and Jen Marano, RN, PACU, who crossed the finish line in Central Park with a time of 3:24:52.

## New Emergency Department Wins Top Building Award from SI Chamber of Commerce

On December 1, the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce hosted its 62nd Annual Building Awards ceremony. Richmond University Medical Center's new James P. Molinaro Emergency Department took home several design and construction awards, including the top honor, the Chairman's Award.

The new Emergency Department was honored for all aspects of interior and exterior design including layout, landscaping, and overall construction. In addition to the top award, RUMC's Emergency Department also received commendations for landscaping and use of outdoor space as well as an excellence award presented to the design and construction teams from Cannon Design, LFD Driscoll, and Gardner and Theobald.

The new 35,000 sq. ft. Emergency Department officially opened in January 2023 and is part of over \$250 million in capital improvement and expansion projects that also include the hospitals' new Medical Intensive Care Unit, Mother/Baby Unit, Co-Generation power plant, and Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion.





## RUMC Honors Staff for Years of Service



*Over 300 employees were honored at this year's service awards; here they take a group photo to commemorate the event.*

On November 30, Richmond University Medical Center held its annual service awards dinner. Each year the event honors and acknowledges employees for their years of service starting with those who have been part of the RUMC Family for five years. This year, the hospital recognized over 300 employees, including two who have been at RUMC for 45 years: Deborah Springstead, RN, a nurse in the Department of Surgery, and Lori Cimato.



*(l-r) Chief Nurse Officer Rosemarie Stazzone, RN, MS, NE-BC; Deborah Springstead, RN, a nurse in the Department of Surgery for 45 years; Amelia Piccione, Assistant Vice President, Peri-Operative Services; and President and Chief Executive Officer, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE.*

## ED Physician Named “Unsung Hero” by American College of Emergency Physicians



*Dileep Aiyagari, MD*

Each year, the New York Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) selects outstanding individuals who work in emergency medicine as “Unsung Heroes.” Those selected embody the mission of emergency medicine and are committed to their patients and colleagues. Included in ACEP-New York’s 2023 class of Unsung Heroes is Richmond University Medical Center’s Dileep Aiyagari, MD.

A member of the Emergency Department at RUMC for the past four years, Dr. Aiyagari graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA with his BA in biology. He received his doctorate of medicine at Albany Medical College in Albany, NY. He

completed his residency in emergency medicine from New York Medical College at Metropolitan Hospital Center in Manhattan. He is board certified in emergency medicine.

“Dr. Dileep Aiyagari lives, breathes and practices the spirit of our Emergency Department,” RUMC’s chair of Emergency Medicine, Johnathon LeBaron, DO, MBA, FACEP, said. “Dr. Aiyagari has been here for four years and in that time has endeared himself to his fellow colleagues, nurses, and patients in the community.”

## New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Mawuse Ruby Adjei-Badu — *Guest Rep*  
Briannah Bedford — *Guest Rep*  
Taylor Caridad — *RN*  
Dara Fidel — *Physician*  
Kimberly Figueroa — *Unit Clerk*  
Ricardo Fontaine — *Paramedic*  
Samantha Gentilella — *Clinic Registrar*  
Joe George — *Radiologist*  
Jamie Giacobbe — *EMT*  
Domenica Giustino — *Program Manager*  
Luis Manuel Gonzalez — *RN*  
Andrea Holmes — *Unit Clerk*  
Tyquan Jenkins — *Food Service Worker*  
Natalia Kimsza — *Unit Clerk*

Sathya Kulatungo — *Desktop Analyst*  
Lahiru Dilshan Kumara Krawage —  
*Nursing Assistant*  
Vanessa Ma — *HR Business Partner*  
Olabode Matthew-Adekoya —  
*Nursing Assistant*  
Peter Mena — *Radiologist*  
Sujoy Menon — *Physician/ Radiologist*  
Michelle Minayev — *Care Manager*  
Michael Moore — *Security Guard*  
Ryan Nelson — *Radiologist*  
Raymond Rivera — *Security Guard*  
Christopher Romano — *Desktop Analyst*

Weerasingha Julatunga Ruchiranthan —  
*Desktop Analyst*  
Natalya Ryabchenko — *Occupational  
Therapist*  
Shadawn Severino — *LMHC*  
Jennifer Siecca — *Support Staff*  
Jaclyn Simonetti — *RN*  
Laura Torres — *Support Staff*  
Karolina Truchel — *FNPP*  
Guadalupe Villegas — *Early Head  
Start Lead*  
Rabije Xhika — *Nursing Assistant*  
Anizabeth Zosayas-Meja — *RN*

## Richmond University Medical Center Hosts Conference on Care for Sexual Assault Survivors



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*“What makes our jobs as sexual assault nurses at RUMC powerful and rewarding is seeing our patients reclaim their lives.”*

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— Isangozi Shoneyin, RN

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*RUMC Forensic Nurse Coordinator Isangozi Shoneyin, RN, discussing the rising number of sexual assault patients visiting the hospital's Emergency Department and the care provided upon arrival.*

As Staten Island's only Center of Excellence for the care of sexual assault survivors, Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) held a daylong conference on November 16 focused on the growing rate of sexual assault incidents in the borough and treatment services available both at RUMC and through its community partners.

Officially designated by the New York State Department of Health as a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Center of Excellence since 2008, in addition to being Staten Island's only hospital with this designation, RUMC is also one of fewer than 20 in the entire state. Recent reports show that the number of sexual assault

survivors treated at RUMC is sadly on an upward trend. Women continue to be the highest demographic year over year. In 2021, RUMC cared for 69 survivors, with 62 being women. Last year the number of survivors grew to 74 with 68 being women. Through the first three quarters of 2023, RUMC has cared for 52 survivors, 47 of them women.

“What makes our jobs as sexual assault nurses at RUMC powerful and rewarding is seeing our patients reclaim their lives,” said Forensic Nurse Coordinator Isangozi Shoneyin, RN. “The trauma does not disappear, but they leave our emergency department knowing someone believed in

them and they are not alone in their journey.”

The conference featured demonstrations of SAFE nurses testifying in court; a discussion on healthcare rights and laws for minors; an overview of the comprehensive services provided to sexual assault survivors who come for treatment in RUMC's Emergency Department; and speakers from community partners, law enforcement agencies, and survivor support services. The conference was co-sponsored by the ACLU of New York; Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon, the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; Safe Horizon; and the Special Victims Division of the NYPD.



## NEW FACES

### **Jennifer Kindle, MPA, CHC** **Director of Internal Audit**

Jennifer oversees the development and oversight of the hospital's risk-based internal audit plan and auditing activities as well as making recommendations to mitigate risk and ensure that appropriate controls are in place. She has an extensive professional background that spans the healthcare continuum including hospitals, large healthcare systems, and pharmaceutical industries.



### **Gregory Fernandez MD, MBA** **Senior Vice President, Operations**

Dr. Fernandez received his undergraduate education from The Johns Hopkins University where he majored in neuroscience and minored in economics. Subsequently, he attended NYU MD/MBA dual degree program prior to completing residency in emergency medicine at Mount Sinai. As part of the RUMC team, Dr. Fernandez will oversee care coordination, facilities, pharmacy, dietary, security and ambulance services, clinical services, and environmental services.



## RUMC Medical Director Honored by NAMI



*Photo: (l-r) Joanne Pietro, MS, RN AVP-Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science; Rosemarie Stazzone, RN, MS, NE-BC, Chief Nurse Officer; Nida Khan, MD; Ann Marie Sullivan, MD, Commissioner; New York State Office of Mental Health; and Joel Idowu, MD, DFAPA, Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Director, Residency Training Program, and Medical Director, Outpatient Services.*

On December 1, Nida Khan, MD, medical director, Child and Adolescent Outpatient Services, was among the honorees at the 30th annual National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) awards gala.

Dr. Khan is a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist with extensive experience in treating children and adults with mental health issues. She received her medical degree from Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences in Pakistan. Dr. Khan completed her residency training in

general psychiatry at Richmond University Medical Center. Her patient-centered and evidence-based approach equip Dr. Khan to help patients of all ages with a variety of emotional difficulties and conditions that affect mood, thinking, and behavior.



# LUCILLE AND JAY CHAZANOFF SURGICAL PAVILION RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



*Over 300 family, friends, staff, and community leaders attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.*



*Chair of Surgery Loren Harris, MD, spoke of the many advanced procedures performed at RUMC that will now be accomplished in the new pavilion.*



*Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella with a photo of Lucille and Jay Chazanoff in the background.*



*The 10 new operating suites are fully equipped for a variety of procedures. Three of the suites are configured to accommodate robotic surgery systems.*