

## This month's Chronicle is dedicated to Pietro Carpenito, MD.



As you all may be aware, Dr. Pietro Carpenito has announced his retirement as our Chief Medical Officer, Executive Vice President, and Chair of Anesthesia after 39 years of selfless and extraordinary service. While his retirement is set for April 30, 2024, Dr. Carpenito will transition into a new role as Special

Advisor to the President and Chief Executive Officer. He will continue as an advisor to his successor, to the executive leadership team, and to the medical staff.

Dr. Carpenito arrived in the United States from Italy in 1980 as a recent medical school graduate. He completed his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan. He came to RUMC, then St. Vincent's Hospital, as an anesthesiologist in 1985. In the nearly 40 years that have followed, Dr. Carpenito has established himself not just as an exceptional anesthesiologist, but also as a teacher, mentor, father figure and inspirational leader to hundreds, if not more, RUMC physicians, residents, and fellows.

Dr. Carpenito owns much credit in the formation of Richmond University Medical Center in 2007 as an independent hospital following the bankruptcies of the St. Vincent's Health System and the Bayonne Medical Center. Dr. Carpenito is one of the founding board members of RUMC, in which he served for 15 years. He has also been as an outstanding executive leader serving in multiple leadership roles at RUMC including Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Chair of the Anesthesia Department, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Carpenito played a key role in expanding and enhancing the breadth and quality of RUMC's medical practices, the formation of the Richmond Health Network in 2020, and more recently,

playing a key role in the development and design of over \$250 million in major capital improvements, including a world class Medical Intensive Care Unit that opened in 2022, a new 35,000 square foot Emergency Department that began treating trauma patients in 2023, and our soon to open Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion.

To say that Dr. Carpenito has been an integral part of the history and culture of Richmond University Medical Center would be an understatement. He has left an indelible mark on our hospital, our staff and our community, the likes of which will be difficult to replicate. The drive and determination that has enabled our independent, community-based hospital to thrive in a market dominated by larger healthcare systems, is reflective of Dr. Carpenito's continuous resolve, fortitude and compassion.

While there is much work ahead for Dr. Carpenito and myself to tackle together, I want to express my own personal appreciation for his passion and commitment to our organization and for the support he provided to me as President and CEO. There could be hardly a better colleague at my side then Dr. Carpenito with his decades of experience helping me navigate the complexities of managing this organization during such a challenging time.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Carpenito for his many years of official service to our hospital and wish him the very best in his new advisory role where you will see him continuing to traverse the hallways of RUMC. Thank you Dr. Carpenito!

Grazie, Pietro. Siamo in debito con te!

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Messina".

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

## Jeffrey Lieto Named New Senior Vice President of Richmond Health Network



Richmond University Medical Center has announced Jeffrey Lieto, MBA, as the new Senior Vice President of the Richmond Health Network. Lieto will oversee the operations of the network, which includes over 20 physician offices and specialty sites throughout Staten Island and Brooklyn.

“One of the reasons that I am eager to serve the care team members, patients, and my fellow leaders at RUMC and the Richmond Health Network is that what I already see is a very proper service-excellence culture,” Lieto said. “So far, in my encounters with every person whom I have met, there is a consistent and palpable commitment to service - selfless service - for our patients and for each other. This is a sign of a great

organizational culture, and I am honored to be included in that going forward.”

Lieto comes to RUMC with over 30 years of senior health executive experience in New York and New Jersey. Most recently, he served as Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Operating Officer for Calvary Hospital and Home Hospice in New York. Prior to that he served as Executive Vice President for a large, physician-owned multispecialty group based in New Jersey and spent 13 years before that as a Vice President at Valley Health System in Ridgewood, New Jersey, leading Ambulatory Care, Clinical Services, and establishing and growing Valley’s physician network. While at Valley, he opened the Blumenthal Cancer Center; Valley’s 180,000 square foot off-site Paramus campus; grew the network to dozens of locations; and oversaw core support services such as laboratories, pharmacy, diagnostic imaging, child development, and many others. After leaving Valley, Jeff served as Chief Physician Strategy Officer, helping establish services and a physician network in Orange County, New York that was connected to Orange Regional Medical Center, the first new hospital opened in New York State in 25 years.

He has also served as New York State’s Deputy Director for Health Care Capital Finance for six years at the New York State Medical Care Facilities Finance Agency; Associate Executive Director at New York City Health and Hospital’s Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx; and as Associate Administrator for Community Medicine at Coney Island Hospital where he had volunteered when he was a high school student.

Lieto has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology and he actually spent a year at RUMC, then St. Vincent’s Hospital, completing his clinical training. He is also a graduate of the CUNY Graduate Program in Health Care Administration at Baruch College and the Mount Sinai College of Medicine, where he received his Master of Business Administration degree. Lieto’s wife, Tamie, is a physician and professor of medicine at two medical colleges. They have four adult children, all of whom work in health care delivery.

Established in 2019, the Richmond Health Network is comprised of private physicians’ offices, several specialty sites and three immediate care walk-in centers.

## Italian Cultural Foundation Honors Senior VP and Chief Nurse Officer

On March 8, Senior Vice President and Chief Nurse Officer, Rosemarie Stazzone, RN, MS, NE-BC, was celebrated as a 2024 Dama during the Festa Della Dama Luncheon at Casa Belvedere. The honor was bestowed by the Italian Cultural Foundation. Rosemarie was honored alongside Carol Decina from National Grid, and longtime RUMC supporter Dianne Powers for their many accomplishments. The luncheon was held on International Women’s Day. Rosemarie was presented with her award by RUMC President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE.



# Richmond University Medical Center Holds 4th Annual RUMC/Arnold Obey 5K Run/Walk

David Michaels wins the race as the men's top finisher, Melissa Kraker takes women's title



Nearly 500 individuals took part in the 4th annual RUMC/Arnold Obey 5K Run/Walk, with 189 runners, 243 walkers, and 51 children. Held at Clove Lakes Park on Saturday, April 13, those in attendance saw last year's men's second place finisher, David Michaels, take the men's division title while the women's division title went to defending champion, Melissa Kraker.

Staten Island AC runner Dave Michaels finished with a time of 18:23.9. Women's defending winner Melissa Kraker of SIAC finished with a time of 20:44.4. Rounding out this year's top three winners, behind Michaels in the men's division was Dr. Francesco Rotatori at 19:59.9 and Jack

Gordon 21:02.8. In the women's division, behind Kraker was Shannon Conroy at 24:38.7 and Emma Lofstedt at 24:38.8.

Proceeds from this year's event will be donated to the family of Rory DeCristoforo, the 7-year-old girl who tragically perished in a house fire earlier this year in West Brighton. "This year's event is extra special, as we are remembering the young life of Rory and doing what we can to support her family following this terrible tragedy," RUMC President and Chief Executive Officer, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said.

"My dad has such a strong connection to Staten Island as a community. He would

never hesitate to participate in any local fundraising events. It would only be fitting to have the proceeds from the event this year go towards the family of Rory DeCristoforo. He wouldn't want it any other way, the Arnold Obey way," Tonya Obey-McCombs, one of Arnold Obey's daughters, said.

Prior to the race and walk, a Kids 50-Yard Fun Dash was held for children 10 years of age and under. Each child wore a Rory's Run T-shirt and received a medal. Members of both the Obey and DeCristoforo family participated as runners and walkers.





# Staten Island parents grateful to RUMC staff after teen's months-long ordeal: 'They carried us through'

Hospitals can be scary places, especially for parents with a sick 15 year old, but one Staten Island family has decided to share their story of gratitude and triumph.

Dawn and Craig Daniels' son, Brendan, who has been diagnosed with autism, recently experienced a pair of admissions to Richmond University Medical Center after his appendix ruptured. But he's now back home with his family following two surgeries and some frightening times.

"It's so weird now, because I look back at all this ... It was the most horrible experience of our lives, but it was also so endearing to remember the support we had from [staff]," Dawn Daniels said. "They carried us through the hardest days of our lives."

Brendan's ordeal started towards the end of August 2023 when he began complaining of stomach pains. Initially, his parents attributed the pains to overeating at end-of-summer barbecues. But the problem persisted. At the time, Craig Daniels had to be in Oregon to visit with his own father, who was dying, so Brendan's mom took him to RUMC's Emergency Department near the family's home because the problem wasn't going away.

Doctors couldn't find an underlying cause for the stomach pains, sending the family home. The parents went elsewhere looking for a second opinion, but doctors still couldn't determine a specific problem.

The stomach problems continued, so they returned to RUMC, where Brendan was admitted for pain management and monitoring on Aug. 17, with doctors believing the pain was linked to a virus or food poisoning. That was until they ran a series of new tests on the 15-year-old boy.

"When they did [a] new battery of tests, it showed not only was it appendicitis, but that [his appendix] had ruptured," Dawn Daniels said. "That's the moment when my heart sunk down to my feet, because things got really bad really fast...It went



*The Daniels Family: Craig, Brendan and Dawn*

from [him] having a virus or [eating] a bad hot dog or something to now an infection in his body, and his symptoms were getting horrible."

Doctors tried a series of procedures to alleviate the pain, but when things continued to get worse for Brendan, Dr. Brian Gilchrist, who heads the hospital's pediatric surgery division, decided it was time to operate on Aug. 20.

Dawn Daniels said she couldn't be in the room when doctors performed the initial operation. Instead, she sat downstairs in the hospital with her sister, where a resident told her the seriousness of Brendan's situation, with part of the boy's body becoming gangrenous. As Brendan was going into surgery, his father was on an airplane back from Oregon to be with his family, not knowing the severity of his son's condition.

"It wasn't until I was in the air on the way home that they realized something was really going wrong [and] that they were going to have to go to surgery," he said. "I was on the way home not even realizing that all that was happening...so [Dawn] had to do all this without me there. Could you imagine? It's like supermom."

Brendan made it through the first surgery, but still experienced pain that the

medical team initially attributed to his condition and sending him home after the procedure. Pain continued to get worse, and eventually Brendan needed to be readmitted to the hospital, where doctors determined the boy suffered from a bowel obstruction.

Throughout the months-long ordeal, staff at RUMC got to know the family well, bonding with Brendan, the family said. A staff member named Tina went so far as to buy him a toy after learning his favorite Sesame Street character in younger years was Elmo. "They were joking around about Elmo and it was funny," Dawn Daniels recalls. "She went out and got him something that she knew would make him laugh and try to cheer him up."

As the condition worsened, Brendan needed to be hooked up to a nasogastric feeding tube as doctors continued to monitor him, but the condition continued to deteriorate as the 6-foot-tall boy, who typically weighs around 115 pounds, dropped down to 96 pounds.

Gilchrist eventually determined that another surgery would be necessary to clear the bowel obstruction, with Brendan heading into his second procedure on Sept. 15.

“When he had the ruptured appendix, it was all in the moment and everything happening was so horrible, but I felt like I was in a fog,” Dawn Daniels said. “With this [the second procedure], I wasn’t in a fog. We were experiencing the whole thing. I felt like I didn’t know what I was going to do, like I was going to go inside out.”

Brendan made it through the second surgery with his parents at his side, and was again sent home to begin his recovery. The family has remained in constant contact with staff from RUMC — including Dr. Juliu Xu, the hospital’s chief of pediatric gastroenterology — making sure Brendan’s recovery goes well.

Dawn Daniels said the family still has worries looking forward to a one-year anniversary of Brendan’s recovery, but she recently sent a heart-felt letter to RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, about the family looking forward to better times.

“Those were dark and frightening times, but as I sit now baking cookies and planning fun times with my healthy boy, I focus not on the traumatic memories, but on my grateful heart,” she wrote. “This family’s hearts overflow with gratitude for Dr. Gilchrist and the whole pediatric team. They are amazing people who possess the skills to cure a critically ill child, plus provide the patient and weary parents with emotional support, comfort and follow-up care when we need it most.”

Part of the reason the Daniels wanted to share the story was to let Staten Islanders know about the quality medical care available in their own community, they said. For Messina, the Daniels’ case speaks to the quality of work the staff at RUMC hopes to provide to all patients.

“When we talk about RUMC being a family organization and a real local community provider, there are cases from time to time that are so special that just highlight how fortunate we are as an organization to have a team of people that really take their job and careers in healthcare so personal,” he said. “When you put it all together, it just makes for an incredible community asset.”

*(Note: This story was reprinted from an article that appeared in the Staten Island Advance, written by Paul Liotta)*

## Watch New Episodes of RUMC Vital Signs

### ▶ EPISODE 9: BATTLING STATEN ISLAND’S OPIOID CRISIS & RUMC’S PROJECT LAUNCH PROGRAM



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



Airing on Community Media of Staten Island Channel 34 and available at [www.RUMCSI.org](http://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.



## Catch up on the Latest Episodes of RUMC Connections Podcast

### ▶ SEASON 2, EPISODE 7: INTERVENTIONAL & DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

In this episode, Sujoy Menon, MD, Chair of Radiology, discusses the wide array of interventional and diagnostic radiology procedures performed at RUMC.



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



[rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast](http://rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast)





## April Observances

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

### Month-Long:

Alcohol Awareness Month  
Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month  
Medicaid Awareness Month  
National Autism Awareness Month  
National Cancer Control Month  
National Donate Life Month  
National Facial Protection Month  
National Interprofessional Healthcare Month  
National Minority Health Month  
National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month  
Occupational Therapy Month  
Oral Cancer Awareness Month  
Parkinson's Awareness Month  
Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month  
STI Awareness Month  
Stress Awareness Month  
Testicular Cancer Awareness Month  
National Child Abuse Prevention Month

### Week Long:

National Public Health Week: April 1 to 7  
Black Maternal Health Week: April 11 to 17  
Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week: April 16 to 22  
Pediatric Sepsis Week: April 18 to 24  
National Pediatric Transplant Week: April 21 to 27  
National Infertility Awareness Week: April 21 to 27  
National Infant Immunization Week: April 21 to 27  
World Immunization Week: April 21 to 27  
Every Kid Healthy Week: April 22 to 26  
Patient Experience Week: April 22 to 28  
Medical Laboratory Professionals Week: April 23 to 29

### Recognition Days:

World Autism Awareness Day: April 2  
World Health Day: April 7  
National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day: April 10  
Annual National Healthcare Decisions Day: April 16  
World Hemophilia Day: April 17  
DNA Day: April 25  
World Malaria Day: April 25  
National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: April 27  
World Day for Safety and Health at Work Day: April 28

## Employee of the Month

**Congratulations to our employee of the month for February:**



**Valentina Elperin, RN**  
Nurse Education Specialist  
Department of Nursing  
Education

## New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Doreen Allen Reyes — RN  
Malika Asrorova — *Clinical Lab Tech*  
Sheren Attar — RN  
Meredith Barzone — *Office Manager*  
Linda Biondi — *Receptionist*  
Brittney Burgio — *RN Intern*  
Kassandra Castro — *Paraprofessional*  
Edwin Cheng — *Neurosurgion*  
Nicholas Ciardiello — RN  
Charles Dispinziere — *Authorization Coordinator*  
Andrew Espiritu — *Cat Scan*  
William Fonseca — *Building Service Worker*  
Williamina Gbaryea — *Mental Health Tech*  
Rubi Gil — *Receptionist*  
Gabrielle Grieco — *Registrar/Discharge*  
Elva Guayllazaca — *Surgical Tech*  
Karen Hegdal — MA  
Shiju Jose — RN  
Kimberly Kemery — *Receptionist*  
Aaleiyah Kennedy — *Receptionist*  
Denise Kingston — *Receptionist*  
Cherie Kirkland — *Peer Counselor*  
Keryn Lee — *RN Intern*  
Jeffrey Lieto Sr. — *VP, Richmond Health Network*  
Michael Lin — *Security Analyst*  
Gianna Lolacono — *Medical Assistant*

Rebecca Ramires Loveszy — *Music Therapist*  
Bianca Lugo — *EMT*  
Angela Marronaro — *Receptionist*  
Jaclyn Massa — RN  
Darcedalia Navarro — *Moran Custodian Helper*  
Christopher Oldaker — *Hospitalist*  
Emelyn Osagiede — RN  
Jaymole Paul — *Pharmacy Tech*  
Michelle Perrotta — *Receptionist*  
Eric Ponfilo-Cortez — *EMT*  
Luisa Potenza — *Social Worker*  
Floriana Resiti — *Paraprofessional*  
Salma Rivera — *Admin Assistant*  
Matthew Rubinov — *Pharmacy Tech*  
Kymani Ruddock — *Security Guard*  
Sharyn Ruggiero — *Receptionist*  
Ibrahim Samoura — *Mental Health Tech*  
Keith Seymour — *Mental Health Tech*  
Ketevan Shekiladze — *Ultrasound Tech*  
Magdalena Skowron-Muco — *Physician Assistant*  
Charmaine Smith — *RN Nursing Administrator*  
George Spivey — *Mental Health Tech*  
Diana Tari — *Building Service Worker*  
Tafima Tarley — *LMHC*  
Briana Withers — *Untrasound OB/GYN*  
Marianne Wright — *Lead Untrasound Tech*

## Silberstein Clinic Marks Problem Gambling Awareness Month

March was Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Nearly 5% of New York State residents are at risk for developing a gambling problem. On March 19, Richmond University Medical Center's Gamblers Treatment Program team held a problem gambling screening day for the public in partnership with NYC Problem Gambling Resource Center. In addition to receiving educational materials and resources, attendees had an opportunity to participate in a free screening provided by a certified treatment counselor. Established in 1982, RUMC's Gamblers Treatment Program is the longest serving program of its kind in New York State. The program is offered through the Silberstein Clinic, located in the Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine at 1130 South Avenue.





# RUMC Auxiliary Donates Baby Clothing

The Richmond University Medical Center Auxiliary recently provided new outfits for families in our Mother/Baby Unit. The outfits were either purchased or handmade by members of the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is a dynamic group of people who devote their free time to supporting the hospital and its mission.



**Richmond University  
Medical Center**



**MONDAY  
May 20<sup>th</sup>  
2024**

**Richmond County  
Country Club**

Honoring:

**Jill O'Donnell-Tormey & Thomas A. Tormey, Jr. and Mark Brandon, MD, FAAOS**