

New Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion Officially Opens



Surgical Department staff gather to cut the ribbon before the very first procedure inside the new surgical pavilion.

Monday, June 3, marked yet another historic day for Richmond University Medical Center: the first surgical procedures were performed inside the hospital's new world class Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion.

With an investment of over \$40 million, the nearly 40,000 square foot surgical unit features 23 pre- and post-operation bays, 11 new technologically-advanced surgical suites, larger nursing stations, advanced infection control technology, a hotel-style family waiting area and spacious hallways to improve

staff and patient flow. Three of the new operating suites are specifically designed to accommodate robotic surgery systems.

The opening of the pavilion is the latest milestone in the transformation of Richmond University Medical Center. Three years ago, RUMC welcomed its new Medical Intensive Care Unit. Last year, the new James P. Molinaro Emergency Department treated its first trauma patients. Now the residents of Staten Island have a new modern, state-of-the-art surgical pavilion right here on Staten Island.



A bed in the pavilion's pre-op unit ready for its first patient.



Chair of Surgery, Loren Harris, MD, and Amelia Piccione, Assistant Vice President, Peri-Operative Services, with former Chief Medical Officer Pietro Carpenito, MD.



Medical minds celebrate: Philip Otterbeck, MD; Loren Harris, MD; Pietro Carpenito, MD; Brian Gilchrist, MD; Michael Cabbad, MD; Marino Polisenso, DO; and Francesco Rotatori, MD.

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



As you read on our front page, this month the first surgical procedures were performed inside our new state-of-the-art Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion. My thanks to the staff of our Surgical Department, led by Chair of Surgery Loren Harris, MD, and Assistant Vice President for Peri-Operative Services, Amelia Piccione, for their countless hours of planning that ensured a smooth transfer from our old operating rooms to the new pavilion.

You may have noticed a trend within our hospital these past few years. A number of capital improvement projects were initiated to help us better provide high quality care and services right here on Staten Island. Fast forward to now, some of these projects have become reality and several more are progressing or nearing completion. The new RUMC is taking shape right before our very eyes.

Our surgical pavilion is now in full service as I mentioned. Last year, one of the cornerstones of our many investments opened its doors: our James P. Molinaro Emergency Department. Since opening in January of 2023, our new Emergency Department has already cared for close to 80,000 trauma and emergency care patients. Three years ago, we cut the ribbon on our new world class Medical Intensive Care Unit. Our most critical patients and their families are receiving the very finest care within this unit 24/7 from some of the finest medical professionals and nurses in the field.

So what is on the horizon? Our new on-site cogeneration power plant, otherwise known as Co-Gen, will power up by end of this summer. This plant will allow us to create our own power, enabling the hospital to remain fully functional in the event of a service disruption.

Finishing up next year will be our window improvement project. Over 700 windows and doors throughout the hospital will be changed with hurricane-force wind resistant replacements. The only hospital on Staten Island located outside of a flood

zone, this FEMA funded project will ensure the hospital can provide full services in the event of severe weather conditions.

In 2026, we will cut the ribbon on our new Joan and Alan Bernikow Heart and Vascular Institute. The new institute will feature a state-of-the-art recovery unit and hybrid cardiac catheterization lab allowing the center to perform neurovascular procedures as well, including brain coiling for strokes and cerebral aneurysms. Housed within the lab will be new \$1.8 million biplane imaging technology.

Also, the final phase of our Mother/Baby Unit upgrades and expansion continues to move along. Underutilized existing space is being converted into additional one-bed suites, making the entire unit single occupancy suites for our families and their newborns. This project has had some stops and starts, but it won't be long before parents will begin to start enjoying the many amenities this new unit has to offer.

And finally, in the future is a new Surgical Intensive Care Unit and new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

While these projects are exciting to think about, they are just brick and mortar. The critical piece to each of them is everyone in our RUMC Family. Whether you work in these units, have referred someone in need of care, or provide some form of support to these units, we all own a little part of each of them. Ensuring they are successful and achieve the goal they are intended for takes all of us. As the saying goes, "Rome was not built in a day." Neither is the new RUMC, but the pieces are falling into place that will position our hospital remains at the forefront of medical care.

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

★★★★★ "The staff and atmosphere is amazing. I experienced a heart attack 6/7. The docs, nurses, and techs made me feel safe and comfortable. I recommend RUMC. Love y'all."

— D.D

★★★★★ "Dr. Parisi and his staff are amazing and very wonderful/kind people. I have been seeing Dr. Parisi for over 15 years now. He's a very nice, polite, and professional doctor who is also extremely good at his job and very knowledgeable. He answers all questions you may have and explains everything to you in a great way. You don't get confused with doctor lingo or anything of that sort. He also makes sure you understand everything that he has gone over with you before you leave his office to ensure you got it all down and understood properly. Extremely great doctor and definitely recommended."

— M.C.

"I recently had an angiogram. I want to commend the staff from registration to release. I was attended to within 10 minutes of arrival. Big Val getting the IV's ready, Wilma taking all my information while the team was doing their thing. Cannot forget the "operating team" led by the excellent Bhavesh Gala and the mystery doctor who assisted doctor Gala along with Maryann. Thank you Susan, Joel, Donna, and Jennifer who watched over me until release. Thank you all."

— B.G.

To the L & D Staff,

Praise and gratitude! Thank you for everything!

— B. & M. C.

BP Fossella Announces \$1.9M for State-of-the-Art Robotic Surgical System for RUMC



Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella announces \$1.9M for RUMC to purchase a second robotic surgical system like the one depicted next to him.

On June 14, Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella announced the allocation of \$1.9 million to Richmond University Medical Center to acquire the hospital's second da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System, an advanced technology used at the world's leading hospitals which allows for precise, minimally invasive surgeries.

"One of our priorities over the last few years has been how do we invest in the future. How do we invest in new technology? How do we allow the healthcare professionals to deliver the best healthcare possible? So today we announced that we will be giving \$1.9 million in capital funding for the da Vinci Xi robotic surgical system here at RUMC," said Fossella.

The robotic system will be used to perform surgeries inside the new Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion. The robot assists surgeons as they perform minimally invasive procedures, with the robotic arms entering through tiny incisions ranging from eight to 12 millimeters in size, resulting in less pain for the patients and quicker recovery times. Over 80 percent of RUMC's surgeons are trained in the use of robotics.

"Robotics is the future and is becoming more and more prevalent in the field of surgery," Chair of Surgery Loren Harris, MD, said. "I can promise you it has made an amazing improvement, not only for the ease of doing surgery for the surgeons, but the ease of recovery and the decrease in pain and the ease of return to normal lifestyle."

Jay Chazanoff, for whom the hospital's new surgical pavilion is named, along with his late wife, Lucille, who passed away in 2020, expressed great pride in

his philanthropic endeavors contributing to the health and wellbeing of Staten Islanders for generations to come.

"I couldn't be prouder to have my wife and myself named as the namesake for this pavilion," said Chazanoff. "One of the most important themes in philanthropy is really focusing on the purpose. Are you doing something that is truly going to be beneficial to many, and I couldn't think of a better way to express that than with this pavilion."



Pavilion namesake Jay Chazanoff expresses his gratitude as Borough President Vito Fossella; Chair of Surgery Loren Harris, MD; and President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, look on.

RUMC Teams with Fans for the Cure, YMCA, to Promote Prostate Health



Former MLB All Star Jason Marquis giving a blood sample for prostate cancer screening.

On June 18, over 30 men received free prostate cancer screenings at a Men's Health Awareness event provided in partnership with the Broadway YMCA and Fans for the Cure. Among those who were screened was former MLB All-Star pitcher Jason Marquis. Also stopping by was former MLB infielder Frank Menechino. Both were born on Staten Island.

Marquis' career began with the Atlanta Braves in 2000. But he began to make his mark after being traded to St. Louis. In 2004, he went 15-7 for the Cardinals and started a World Series game. He went on to win 11 or more games for six straight years through 2009. In 2009, while pitching for the Colorado Rockies, Marquis was named to the National League All-Star team.

Menechino is a former infielder who played for the Oakland Athletics and Toronto Blue Jays from 1999 through 2005. Hitting 12 home runs and driving in 60 runs, his best year came in 2001 with the Oakland Athletics.

As part of the event, board certified urologist Richard Maggio, MD, provided a presentation on prostate health and talked about the risk factors and symptoms of prostate cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the United States.

Fans for the Cure is a non-profit organization established by Ed Randall, a former MLB Baseball broadcaster. The mission of Fans for the Cure is to promote prostate cancer awareness and testing to raise awareness of early detection.

Protecting Young Hearts in Honor of "KT" Kirkland

On June 9, Richmond University Medical Center's Cardiovascular Department performed over 20 free EKGs on adults and student-athletes during the Miles "KT" Kirkland Memorial Football Game and Free Heart Screening Event held at Curtis High School. The event is held annually to honor KT Kirkland who died after football practice at Curtis HS in 2014 from a cardiac event. The event is organized by his mother,

Tanza. Representing RUMC was Chief of the Cardiovascular Department and President of the RUMC Medical Staff Francesco Rotatori, MD; Chief of Women's Cardiovascular Health, Fiona Shehaj, MD; pediatric cardiologist Jared LaCorte, MD; Medical Assistant Coordinator Jessica Rosario; and Director of Cardiology Services Ginamarie Lamberti.



Filtering Out Concerns: RUMC Urologist Dr. Richard Maggio Sheds Light on UTIs and Hematuria



Richard Maggio, MD, FACS

While conditions of the urinary tract such as urinary tract infections (UTIs) and hematuria (blood in the urine) can often be concerning, they're also quite common. In the case of urinary tract infections, for example, studies

show that nearly half of all women will experience a UTI at some point in their lifetime.

"The health of the urinary system — which includes the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra — is crucial for filtering and eliminating waste from our bloodstream," said Richard Maggio, MD, FACS, board certified urologist.

Facts About Hematuria

"There are two types of hematuria: 'gross,' where blood in the urine is visible, and 'microscopic,' where the blood can only be seen under a microscope," Dr. Maggio said.

"One of the most common causes of hematuria is an infection, such as a kidney infection or a UTI, which can irritate the bladder and cause bleeding," he said. "Stones in the kidneys or bladder can also cause bleeding by irritating the walls of these organs when the stones move, and more serious conditions, such as kidney disease, cancer of the urinary tract, or inherited disorders like sickle cell anemia can also cause blood in the urine."

He noted that strenuous physical activity such as long-distance running can cause hematuria, though it's usually temporary and should be monitored. Of a far less-threatening nature, "certain foods (like beets or rhubarb) or medications can change the color of your urine to red or brown, which might look like blood but isn't," he said.

"The workup for hematuria typically involves an imaging study of the urinary system (via a CAT scan or ultrasound), a urine cytology (which looks for cancer cells in the urine), and a look inside the bladder with a fiber optic telescope," Dr. Maggio said. "It's important to rule out everything before you can dismiss hematuria as nothing."

"While finding blood in your urine can be startling, it often has a benign cause," Dr. Maggio said. "However, because it can also be a sign of a more serious condition, it's crucial to get it checked out by a doctor and not ignore it."



Facts About UTIs

"UTIs are common infections that can affect different parts of the urinary system," Dr. Maggio said of this uncomfortable condition, which can create frequency, urgency, and burning upon urination. "While both men and women can develop UTIs, the causes and risk factors can differ significantly based on their anatomical and physiological differences."

In females, "the fact that women have a shorter urethra that's closer to the anus than men makes it easier for bacteria, primarily *E. coli* commonly found in the intestines, to reach the bladder and cause infections," Dr. Maggio said. Among other top causes of UTIs in women, "sexual intercourse can introduce bacteria

into the urinary tract, and birth control methods such as diaphragms and spermicidal agents can also disrupt the natural bacterial flora around the vagina and urethra and increase the risk of UTIs."

Finally, because estrogen helps keep the lining of the bladder and urethra healthy, "the decrease in estrogen levels that women experience in menopause can also lead to an increased risk of UTIs," he said.

According to Dr. Maggio, UTIs in men can stem from an enlarged prostate gland that obstructs the flow of urine and causes bacteria to grow in the remaining urine in the bladder, or their use of a urinary catheter inserted into the bladder to drain urine. "Men with kidney stones are also at a higher risk of UTIs because stones can block urine flow and create areas where bacteria can multiply unchecked."

In both men and women, "individuals with weakened immune systems (from diseases like diabetes or treatments like chemotherapy) or those with poor genital hygiene, structural abnormalities of the urinary tract, or frequent use of antibiotics are more susceptible to UTIs and other infections," Dr. Maggio said.

Along with addressing any of the aforementioned risk factors, "prevention strategies for UTIs include maintaining good personal hygiene, staying hydrated to help flush out bacteria, and, for women, urinating after sexual intercourse to help clear any bacteria that might have been introduced near the urethra," Dr. Maggio said. "In addition, both men and women should avoid holding urine for long periods and attend to any health issues, like diabetes or kidney stones, which might predispose them to infections."

"In the case of an uncomplicated UTI, a few days of antibiotics will usually take care of it, and cranberry supplementations/extracts can also help," Dr. Maggio said. "But because UTIs can also be signs of other systemic issues, it's important to have them checked out by a qualified medical practitioner."

July Observances

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

Month-Long:

Cord Blood Awareness Month
Group B Strep Awareness Month
Healthy Vision Awareness Month
Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month
Minority Mental Health Awareness Month
National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month

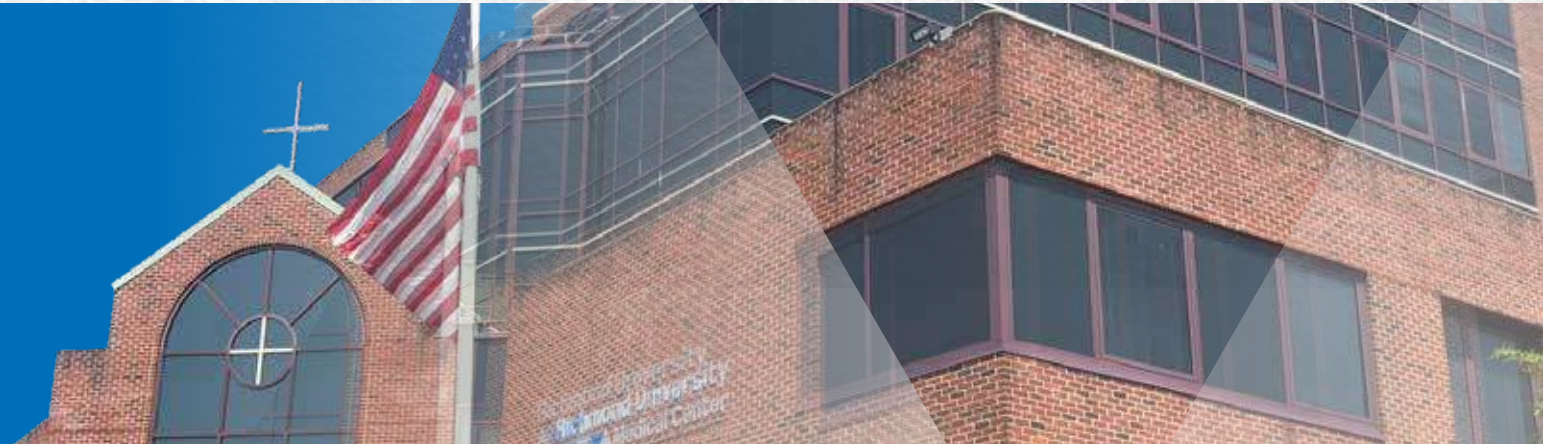
Sarcoma Awareness Month
UV Safety Month

Week-Long:

National Therapeutic Recreation Week: July 7 to 13

Recognition Days:

World Hepatitis Day: July 28



Medical Society Installs New Slate of Officers, Dr. Mendez Named President



Congratulations to Ana Mendez, MD, MPH, (center) who was sworn in on June 10 as the 218th president of the Richmond County Medical Society. Dr. Mendez has

practiced pediatric medicine at RUMC for nearly 20 years. Also sworn in as officers were (l-r) Inna Miroshnichenko, MD, as Treasurer; Ishita Kharode, MD, as

President-Elect; and Melissa Grageda, MD, as Vice President. They are joined by outgoing President Murlidhar Pahuja, MD, FACS.

New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Marufa Adams — RN
Cierra Allen — *Mental Health Tech*
Ariel Almonte — RN
Nicole Annan — RN
Rachel Bakare — *RN Extern*
Isablla Beharrylal — *RN Extern*
Madeline Bouma — *RN Extern*
Martinamarie Caputo — *RN Intern*
Gianna Codispoti — *RN Extern*
Jose Cortes-Melo — *Mental Health Tech*
Elizabeth Cruz — *Medical Assistant*
Eric Cruz — *Clerk*
Gabriella D'Antonio — *RN Extern*
Gabriella DeMartini — *RN Extern*
Sadeta Durakovic — *RN Intern*
Jeffrey Dynoff — *Admin Dir Psych*
Frank Fico — *RN Extern*
Thomas Gerbino — RN
Tania Gonzalez — RN
Carl Hennawy — *RN Extern*
Melody Kelly — *RN Extern*
Lahiru Krawage — RN
Elvedin Lesevic — *RN Extern*
Dalu Lewis — *Nurse Practioner*

Stephanie Llorca — *Ultra Sound Tech*
Isabella Mastrianni — *RN Extern*
Meri Mneyan — *Receptionist*
Almir Muratovic — *Medical Assistant*
Ava Napolitano — *RN Extern*
Tania Naser — *RN Extern*
Karina Navarro-Romero — *RN Extern*
Myrna Negrón — *Social Worker*
Nakeem Nicholas — *Security Guard*
Alivia Nielsen — *Receptionist*
Julius Otero — *Trauma Data Analyst*
Mia Polizzi — *Nursing Assistant*
Toni Scardato — RN
Anthony Schiandicola — *Physical Therapist*
Svetlana Semkova — RN
Sarah Sharayden — *Nursing Assistant*
Victor Song — *Unit Clerk*
Alyssa Stallone — *RN Intern*
Erica Terranova — RN
Aaron Thompson — *Nursing Assistant*
Denise Vasquez — *Receptionist*
Crystal Willacy — *Mental Health Tech*
Tammy Wood — *Physician Assistant*
Victoria Xuereb — *RN Extern*

Employees of the Month

Congratulations to our employees of the month for June:



Marykate Mooney, RN
Patient Unit Seton 3-1



Charitha Panangala, NA
Critical Care Unit

RUMC EMTs and Paramedics Honored at 30th Annual EMS Awards Breakfast



Borough President Vito Fossella's 911 Advisory Committee held its 30th Annual EMS Awards Breakfast in late May. At the breakfast, four emergency responders from Richmond University Medical Center were among those honored for their commitment to the health and safety of the Staten Island community.

Honored were James Donnelly, Lead EMT, and Michael Fiore, EMT Intern Coordinator. Both received the prestigious EMT of the Year award. Paramedic of the Year awards were presented to RUMC Paramedic Jeff Brown and posthumously to Paramedic James Barghaan, who passed away last year. His award was accepted on his

behalf by his wife, Lead RUMC Paramedic Angela Ciocia.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of National EMS Week. Established by President Gerald Ford in 1974, National EMS Service Week honors emergency medical technicians and paramedics nationwide for their dedication to caring for others.

William Amaniera, Richmond University Medical Center's assistant vice president of emergency services and public safety, who has been a member of the committee since its formation, helped with organizing this year's event.

"These are very prestigious awards and the candidates are handpicked by leadership based on skills, performance, work ethic, and leadership," Amaniera said.

RUMC Celebrates Pride Month at Pride Fest Staten Island

Richmond University Medical Center was a proud sponsor of Pride Fest 2024, held on June 1 at Sailor's Snug Harbor.

The event was organized by Pride Center of Staten Island to kick off June, which is national Pride Month. Over 1,000 people attended the event. RUMC staff was on hand to provide information on hospital services and to offer free prostate cancer screenings. June is also Men's Health Awareness Month. Close to 15 individuals were screened at the event.

RUMC's oncology department analyzed the blood samples and contacted the individuals with the results at no cost.

