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Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

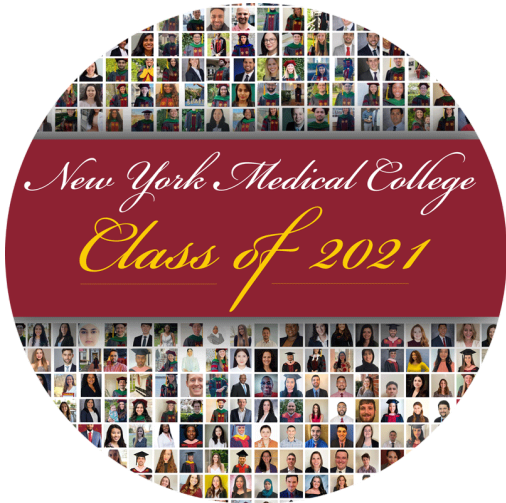
Alumni Connections

Summer 2021

Summer 2021 GSBMS Alumni Connections

New York Medical College

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NYMC Celebrates 162nd Commencement Virtually

The 162nd Commencement for NYMC and Second Commencement for Touro College of Dental Medicine (TCDM) was a heartfelt sendoff to the Class of 2021. Although the ceremonies were virtual, students, faculty and school leadership, all expressed their pride for finishing the 2020-2021 academic year despite the obstacles that remained due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the culmination of a week of commencement activities that included individual school hooding and awards ceremonies. [Read the full article on the Commencement and view the photo gallery and videos.](#)

NYMC Selected to Assist NYS in the Identification of COVID-19 Variants

NYMC is among five institutions selected by New York State to bolster state efforts in identifying COVID-19 variants. The New York State Department of Health is partnering with the [NYMC Genomics Core Laboratory](#) to access and process positive specimens of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, from large multi-county areas in New York State outside of New York City. [Read the full article on the NYMC Genomics Core Laboratory selection.](#)



Bridge and Seed Funding Grants Awarded to NYMC Faculty

NYMC researchers have been awarded bridge and seed funding grants from TCUS. Bridge grants sustain research projects between large grant funding and seed grants enable research to gather initial data. "The outcomes of our faculty's research and scholarship feature prominently in our reputation as an institution of higher education," said Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D., vice president for research at NYMC, senior vice president for research affairs for TCUS and chair of the TCUS Biomedical and Health Sciences Research Council. "The bridge and seed funding grant programs are one of several initiatives both system-centric and campus-centric by which we seek to recognize excellence and support research as a fundamental component of Touro's mission." [Read the full article on the bridge and seed funding grants.](#)

NYMC Researchers Partners with Regeneron to Discover GPR75 Gene Mutations that Protect Against Obesity

Researchers from NYMC and Regeneron Genetics Center (RGC) have discovered rare genetic mutations in the GPR75 gene associated with protection against obesity. [As reported in Science](#), almost 650,000 people were sequenced to find rare individuals with this genetic 'superpower.' NYMC researchers in the labs of **Michal L. Schwartzman, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology, second from left, and **Victor Garcia, Ph.D.** '15, assistant professor of pharmacology, second from right, worked with RGC to discover the correlation. [Read the full article on the study.](#)



MSCHE Reaffirms NYMC Accreditation for Maximum Term of Eight Years

At its June 2021 session, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) voted to reaffirm NYMC accreditation for the maximum eight-year period with no reporting requirements or recommendations while offering several



commendations for excelling in certain areas. After a two-year process of an inclusive, transparent and evidence-based self-appraisal process involving stakeholders across NYMC, culminating in a four-day virtual site visit, the results could not be better. [Read the full article on the MSCHE affirmation of accreditation.](#)

Center of Excellence in Precision Responses to Bioterrorism and Disasters Receives \$1 Million in Funding

Elected officials gathered with NYMC and TCUS leadership to announce \$1,000,000 in increased funding for the Center of Excellence in Precision Responses to Bioterrorism and Disasters within the Center for Disaster Medicine (CDM). The funding is a major increase since an initial annual pledge from New York lawmakers of \$500,000 in 2017 and \$925,000 in 2019, a sum that is matched by NYMC in support of the expanding work and impact of the Center. [Read the full article on the press conference and view the photo gallery and video.](#)



NYMC and TCUS Host 13th COVID-19 Symposium

Variants of COVID-19 and vaccination efforts were the focus of the latest edition of the COVID-19 Symposium series, hosted by NYMC and TCUS on July 22. The 13th COVID-19 Symposium took aim at the Delta variant-which has been detected in an increasing percentage of COVID-19 cases across the United States in recent weeks-and vaccine hesitancy. [Read the full article on the symposium and view the video.](#)

NYMC Hosts Celebrating Diversity: Then and Now Event

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of Development and Alumni Relations joined together to host Celebrating Diversity: Then and Now, a virtual event. Alumni Lifetime Achievement Awards and Trailblazer Awards were presented to alumni and members of the SOM, GSBMS and SHSP. Moderated by Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H. FAAN, FAES, vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, SOM associate dean of student affairs and associate professor of neurology and of medicine, the inaugural event fittingly took place during commencement celebration week. [Read the full article and view the video on Celebrating Diversity: Then and Now.](#)



Golf Outing Honoring Leonard J. Newman, M.D. '70, Raises More than \$235,000

More than 130 golfers hit the links at the famed Saint Andrew's Golf Course in Hastings on Hudson on June 28 to honor **Leonard J. Newman, M.D. '70**, second from left, longtime professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at NYMC. The outing, sponsored by the Board of Advisors, raised more than \$235,000 for student scholarships and other important initiatives at NYMC. [Read the full article on the golf outing and view the photo gallery.](#)

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

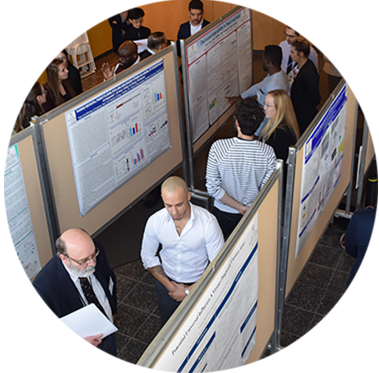
2021 Founder's Dinner

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 * 6:00 p.m.

The Founder's Dinner is NYMC's signature, annual fundraising event, where hundreds of academic, health care, business and community leaders, come together to celebrate NYMC's proud history and promising future, and to honor distinguished community leaders



for their impactful and transformative achievements. This year's honorees include Cristina Contreras, M.P.A., LMSW, FABC, chief executive officer at NYC Health + Hospitals. [Visit the Founder's Dinner website.](#)



Save the Date: 33rd Annual Graduate Student Research Forum
Tuesday, March 15, 2022

The Graduate Student Research Forum provides GSBMS students with an opportunity to present their research to colleagues, faculty and staff of NYMC and the scientific community in the tri-state area.

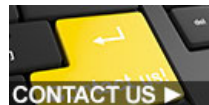
ALUMNI MILESTONES



Call for Alumni Milestones

We would love to share your most recent news and accomplishments in our next issue of *Chironian*. If you have any accomplishments or developments, published a book, or have any family news to share we would love to hear from you.

Please [share](#) your updates with us to be included in our class notes.



For more information and [to make a donation](#), please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at (914) 594-2720 or [\[email protected\]](#).

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