

Touro Scholar

School of Medicine

Alumni Connections

Summer 2021

Summer 2021 SOM Alumni Connections

New York Medical College

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NYMC Celebrates 162nd Commencement

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.](#)

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.](#)



NYMC Welcomes New Chairs in the Departments of Neurology and Radiation Medicine

NYMC SOM has named **Tracey A. Milligan, M.D.**, left, as chair of the Department of Neurology. In addition, she will serve as director of neurology at Westchester Medical Center (WMC). [Read the full article on Dr. Milligan.](#) **Mark D. Hurwitz, M.D.**, has been named the chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine in the NYMC SOM as well as director of radiation medicine at WMC. [Read the full article on Dr. Hurwitz.](#)

Vice Chancellor Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H., FAAN, FAES, Honored at Crain's New York Inaugural Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Awards

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, was honored as a Champion of Change by Crain's New York during their inaugural Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Awards on July 15. [The virtual awards ceremony](#) recognized those who are making great strides in creating a more equitable workplace. Dr. Etienne was honored in the emerging leaders category for promoting programs or initiatives advancing diversity and inclusion. [Read the full article on Dr. Etienne's award.](#)



La Casita de la Salud Expands Services to Offer Medical and Dental Care in Westchester

Since 2005 [La Casita de la Salud](#), the NYMC student-run clinic located in East Harlem, has been bridging the gap in health care disparities by providing quality, culturally-competent care regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, nationality or ability to pay. That gap just got a bit smaller with the opening of a second student-run clinic. The new La Casita de la Salud, located at 19



Skyline Drive on the NYMC campus, is a joint venture between NYMC's Family Health Center and Touro Dental Health, the state-of-the-art, 115-chair dental health facility of the TCDM at NYMC, and will offer free medical and dental care to uninsured adults. [Read the full article and view the photo gallery.](#)

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.](#)

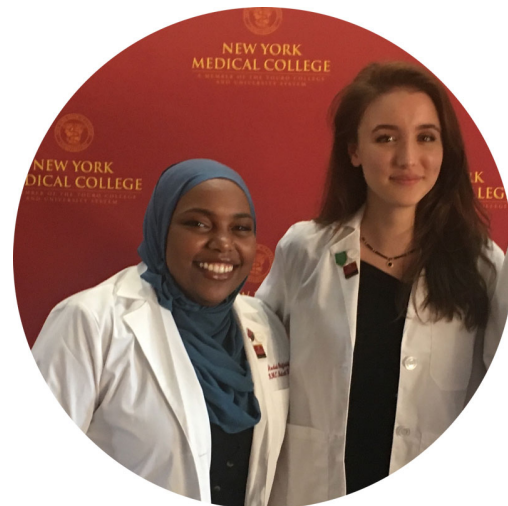


Bridge and Seed Funding Grants Awarded to NYMC Faculty

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 Receives Grant from Alpha Omega Alpha to Support Educational Leadership Program to Combat Systemic Racism and Implicit Bias

The Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society has awarded NYMC a 2021 Medical Student Service Leadership Project Grant to support the creation of an education leadership program, led by NYMC SOM students, to combat systemic racism and implicit bias in medical education. The program, called the Transformative Education Leadership Program (TELP): Combating Systemic Racism and Implicit Bias through Medical Education, will select students to undergo an intensive training aimed at developing the leadership skills to address bias and racism in medicine. [Read the full article on the AOA grant.](#)



NYMC Hosts Virtual Diversity and Inclusion Events

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted two insightful seminars, "Leveraging Diversity in Academic Medicine," in partnership with Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians (BNGAP), a virtual seminar was aimed at students who are underrepresented in medicine. The Office also hosted "Celebrating Diversity: Then and Now," where Alumni Lifetime Achievement Awards and Trailblazer Awards were presented to alumni and members of the Class of 2021. Read the full articles on [Leveraging Diversity in Academic Medicine](#) and [Celebrating Diversity: Then and Now](#).

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 Welcomes SOM Class of 2025 During Transition Week

NYMC welcomed 211 students to the SOM Class of 2025 during transition week that included move in days and a week full of presentations on professionalism, success and wellness in medical school, academic policies, the student honor code, implicit bias training, career planning and research opportunities, as well as online safety training and required certifications in infection control, HIPAA, basic life support and Narcan administration. There was also time for social activities for students to get to know one another including the Dean's Barbecue. [Read the full article on transition week and view the photo galleries.](#)



SOM Class of 2025 Celebrates Milestone as Promising Medical Professionals during White Coat Ceremony

Members of the SOM Class of 2025 gathered on campus on a beautiful summer afternoon, to celebrate an important milestone on their journey to becoming physicians when they officially donned their white coats for the first time during the White Coat Ceremony on August 1. Now a 25-year tradition at NYMC, the White Coat Ceremony began in 1993 at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons by Arnold P. Gold, M.D., a professor of clinical neurology and of clinical pediatrics, there, to emphasize the importance of professionalism and humanism in medicine at the beginning of medical school. [Read the full article and view the video and photo gallery of the NYMC White Coat Ceremony.](#)

Department of Surgery Hosts 18th Annual Louis R.M. DelGuercio Distinguished Visiting Professorship and Research

The 18th Annual Louis R.M. DelGuercio Distinguished Visiting Professorship and Research Day featuring keynote speaker **Raymond R. Price, M.D., FACS**, fourth from left in photo, took place on June 18. During his address, Dr. Price, vice chair for global health at the Center for Global Surgery, clinical professor and adjunct associate professor of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Division of Public Health at the University of Utah, shared an inspirational story of his experience with global health and the immense impact it has on communities worldwide. [Read the full article on DelGuercio Day and view the video.](#)



GHHS Student Clinician Ceremony Marks Milestone in Medical Education

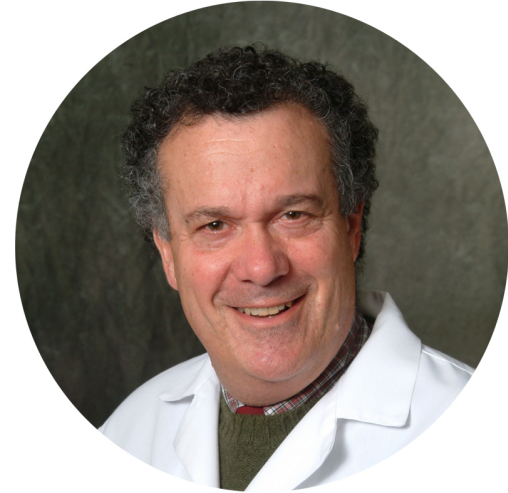
NYMC students and faculty gathered under the tent outside of Sunshine Cottage to celebrate the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) Student



Clinician Ceremony on June 24, when members of the SOM Class of 2023 took an oath of humanism prior to starting their clinical clerkships. Resident physicians from clinical affiliates, selected by the outgoing third-year class, were honored with Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards for demonstrating exceptional humanistic qualities in the care of patients, including compassion, empathy, professionalism and service, as well as going above and beyond in role as teachers to medical students. [Read the full article on the Student Clinician Ceremony.](#)

NYMC Hosts Paul K. Woolf, M.D., Pediatric Trainee Research Day

NYMC SOM Department of Pediatrics, Boston Children's Health Physicians and the Children's Health and Research Foundation Inc., co-hosted the 11th Annual **Paul K. Woolf, M.D.**, Pediatric Trainee Research Day virtually on May 19. The event highlighted new and innovative biomedical research in pediatrics and fosters academic discussions. Four abstracts were selected for oral presentation and received awards in clinical, translational and basic research categories. [Read the full article on the Paul K. Woolf, M.D., Pediatric Trainee Research Day.](#)



STUDENT PROFILE



Michael Reilly Dr.P.H. '10, M.P.H., looks to build on his accomplishments in public health and begin a career in medicine upon graduating from NYMC's SOM. [Read the full article on Dr. Reilly.](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Alica Cha, M.D. '13, turned her lifelong appreciation of health care workers into a career treating patients and educating medical professionals of the future in California. [Read the full article on Dr. Cha.](#)

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS



2021 Founder's Dinner

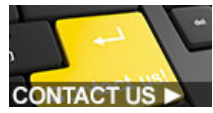
Wednesday, October 27, 2021 * 6:00 p.m.

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.](#)

CALL FOR 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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