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New York Medical College

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InTouch

a publication for the New York Medical College community

Week of December 6, 2021



NEWS



Ernest Y.C. Lee, Ph.D., NYMC Alumni Chair in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Retires

Upon the retirement of **Ernest Y.C. Lee, Ph.D.**, left, professor and NYMC Alumni Chair in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, **Marina K. Holz, Ph.D.**, GSBMS dean and professor of cell biology and anatomy, will serve as interim chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, effective December 1. Dr. Lee has been a valued and dedicated member of the basic sciences faculty since 1997. [Read the full article on Dr. Lee.](#)

NYMC Hosts Screening and Discussion of *CURED*

A screening of the award-winning documentary, [CURED](#), highlighting the struggle for LGBTQ rights and equality, was hosted by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Health Sciences Library and LGBTQ+ Advocacy in Medicine Club on November 22, followed by an interactive group discussion. Fifty people viewed the movie in-person and virtually and it continues to be available to students, faculty and staff, for viewing by signing into [Box](#) with TouroOne credentials. The movie examines the campaign that led the American Psychiatric Association (APA) to remove homosexuality from its manual of mental illnesses.





Environmental Health Interest Group Secures Food Composting Service for Students

NYMC students living on campus now have access to food composting services, thanks to efforts by the Environmental Health Interest Group. The composting service is in collaboration with Valhalla-based CompostEd, a small-scale food scrap composting demonstration and education site funded by Westchester County, which will offer a sustainable alternative for food waste disposal. [Read the full article on the student composting program.](#)

StuHE Hosts 2021 Career Mentor Session

The SHSP Student Healthcare Executives Club (StuHE) hosted the 2021 Career Mentor Session on November 12 via Zoom. StuHE officers and volunteers moderated the meetings and breakout rooms at an on-campus command center. The Zoom sessions were filled with lively discussions among more than 45 students and alumni from the SHSP and 10 public health professionals. [Read the full article on the 2021 Career Mentor Session.](#)



IN THE COMMUNITY



Oncology Interest Group Supports Movember With a Beard Contest

The Oncology Interest Group (OIG) hosted a beard-growing competition to support Movember, a movement to raise awareness for men's health issues including mental health, suicide prevention and prostate and testicular cancer. Eight student contestants had their beards judged by Patrick Lento, M.D., professor of pathology and clinical medicine, and one student judge on November 30. A polling system allowed students to donate to the Movember charity in the name of each contestant and vote for their favorite facial hair. The OIG raised \$350 for Movember. Bragging rights and Amazon gift cards went to first place winner, **Ryan Lubarsky**, School of Medicine (SOM) Class of

2024 and second place winner Zach Shaff, SOM Class of 2024, while Ethan Swartz, SOM Class of 2024, won the popular vote from the audience and a beard care kit. [View the Movember photo gallery.](#)

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Office of Student Academic Support Sets Up Students for Scholastic Success

Students at NYMC and Touro College of Dental Medicine (TCDM) have a lot to balance, and if they need assistance with their studies, the Office of Student Academic Support is ready to help. The Office focuses on providing students with resources to allow them to study and work as effectively as possible. Whether it be study methods or preparatory workshops, the Office of Student Academic Support is a vital asset for students throughout the NYMC and TCDM community. **Kristina H. Petersen, Ph.D.**, assistant dean of academic support programs and assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, [shares more what the Office offers.](#)

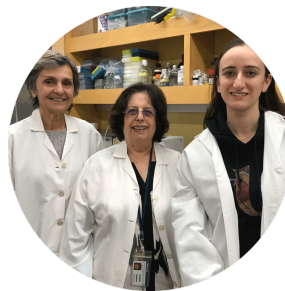


ACCOLADES



Padmini Murthy, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., M.Phil., CHES, professor of public health and global health director, was presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award by Mac/Ban Arts, a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading awareness on national and international issues impacting women, children and men. She was honored at a gala on December 3.

"Mechanisms of susceptibility or resilience to traumatic stress: potential influence of the microbiome" was presented by **Esther L. Sabban, Ph.D.**, center, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; **Bistra B. Nankova, Ph.D.**, left, associate professor of pediatrics and of biochemistry and molecular biology; **Arax Tanelian**, right, Ph.D. candidate; and **Roxanna J. Nahvi**, M.D./Ph.D. candidate, at the Neuroscience 2021 meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SFN). The work was selected for presentation at a press conference,



"Uncovering the Biological Blueprint of Stress Resilience" hosted by SFN on November 2.

GRANT NEWS



Stuart A. Newman, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy, received \$1,055,837, part of a new three-year \$14.5 million international program, "Agency, Directionality, and Function: Foundations for a Science of Purpose," funded by the John Templeton Foundation. Dr. Newman will serve as the principal investigator of a multisite project on "Cellular Agency in Multicellular Development and Cancer" that includes experimental and theoretical scientists and philosophers of biology. The John Templeton Foundation serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to deep and perplexing questions facing humankind and supports research on subjects ranging from complexity, evolution and emergence to creativity, forgiveness and free will.

TIP OF THE WEEK

December 5 – 11 is National Influenza Vaccination Week to remind everyone six months and older that there is still time to get a flu vaccine. The Family Health Center has the regular vaccine dose and the high dose for seniors. Faculty and staff can contact the Family Health Center at (914) 828-0435 to make an appointment, although walk-ins are welcome. Students can contact Health Services at (914) 594-4234 to schedule an appointment.



DID YOU KNOW?



Kenneth Knapp, Ph.D., assistant professor of health policy and management and co-director, the Center for Long-Term Care, is the first NYMC faculty member to have a lead article published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *MMWR: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. He was an author on ["Prevalence and Characteristics of Subjective Cognitive Decline Among Unpaid Caregivers Aged ≥45 Years — 22 States, 2015–2019."](#)

NEW HIRES NOVEMBER 2021

Join us in welcoming our new employees at NYMC:

- **Tahar Hajri, Ph.D.**, Research Scientist, Office of Research Affairs
- **Logan Infantino**, Accountant II, Restricted Funds
- **Catherine Mason**, Manager of Foundation/Corporate Relations and Stewardship, Office of Development and Alumni Relations
- **Glorimar Rodriguez**, Administrative Assistant, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- **Randy A. Williams, R.N.**, Clinical Research Coordinator, Department of Pediatrics

From the Office of Human Resources, December 1, 2021

EVENTS ON THE NYMC CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday, December 6	12:00 p.m.	Department of Physiology Seminar
Tuesday, December 7	3:00 p.m.	Dean's Special Reception
Wednesday, December 8	6:45 a.m.	Department of Anesthesiology Grand Rounds
	8:00 a.m.	Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds
	1:00 p.m.	Department of Public Health Research Seminar
	2:00 p.m.	Deans' Seminar Series
	6:00 p.m.	Department of Neurology Grand Rounds
Thursday, December 9	5:00 p.m.	SHSP Biostatistic Capstone
	7:00 p.m.	Community Read and Book Discussion

Add an event to the NYMC calendar here.

[Visit nyc.edu/calendar](https://nyc.edu/calendar) to view all events.

HIGHLIGHTS



28th Annual Faculty Author Celebration

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

4:00 p.m. • [Zoom](#)

Recognizing faculty authors who published in 2020. [View the complete bibliography here.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Ages 5-11, Boosters and Flu Vaccines, Are Available at the NYMC Family Health Center

Contact the Family Health Center at (914) 828-0435 to



make an appointment, although walk-ins are welcome.



NYMC Free Community Food Pantry

The [NYMC Free Community Food Pantry](#), located outside of the Alumni House at 20 Sunshine Cottage Road, is stocked with non-perishable food items and other items donated by the NYMC community.



Yoga Class for Faculty and Staff

Virtual yoga class led by certified yoga instructor Mary Butler-Fink.

Mondays | 5:30 p.m. | [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 489 054 8060; Password: YOGA
One tap mobile +19292056099 (for dial in)

IN THE NEWS

New York Medical College Leadership News

[Dr. Edward Halperin Interview – Chancellor and CEO of the New York Medical College](#)

Westfair Online - 11/29/2021
Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer

[School Closures Aren't Just for Covid Anymore](#)

The Wall Street Journal (login required) - 11/28/2021
Royal S. Copeland, M.D., (1868-1938) was dean of NYMC from 1908 to 1918

[Touro Is A Leader In Healthcare Education](#)

Queens Jewish Link - 11/24/2021
Rabbi Moshe Krupka, M.S., executive vice president, Touro College and University System
Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer, NYMC
Edward Farkas, D.D.S., M.A., vice dean, Touro College of Dental Medicine

[Experts offer guidance on COVID vaccines](#)

Eastchester Review - 11/23/2021
Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president of government affairs

[Health officials: COVID-19 surge tied to unvaccinated community](#)

News 12 Hudson Valley - 11/23/2021
Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president of government affairs

[The 2021 Westchester Power 100](#)

City and State New York - 11/22/2021
Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president of government affairs
Michael D. Israel, M.P.H., assistant professor of medicine, distinguished visiting professor of public health
Susan W. Fox, Ph.D., associate professor of health policy and management and director of the Center on Disability and Health

Faculty News

[Year in Review: Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia](#)

MedPage Today - 12/2/2021
Leslie L. Citrome, M.D., M.P.H., clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences

[Emergence of Novel Antipsychotic Agents in Schizophrenia](#)

Medically Prime - 11/23/2021
Leslie L. Citrome, M.D., M.P.H., clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences

[Westchester Medical Builds Hematology and Oncology Programs](#)

Patch - 12/1/2021

Mark D. Hurwitz, M.D., chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine
Mitchell S. Cairo, M.D., professor of pediatrics, medicine, pathology, microbiology and immunology, and cell biology and anatomy
Renee Garrick, M.D., vice dean and chief medical officer for Westchester Medical Center and professor of clinical medicine

[WMC Surgery Director Named Kosovo Health Minister \(page 28\)](#)

Westchester County Business Journal - 11/29/2021

Steven Lansman, M.D., Ph.D., professor of surgery and interim chair of the Department of Surgery at NYMC

[The Role of Long-Acting Injectable Drugs for Schizophrenia](#)

MedPage Today - 11/29/2021

Leslie L. Citrome, M.D., M.P.H., clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences

[Thanksgiving's already stressful for a lot of families, and now climbing COVID cases add pressure](#)

Poughkeepsie Journal - 11/22/2021

Stephen Ferrando, M.D., Har Esh Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Donald S. Chen M.D., assistant professor of medicine

[Tips for Maintaining Your Vocal Health](#)

River Journal - 11/22/2021

Sierra Zoll, SLP Class of 2022
Barbara J. Leader, M.A., CCC-SLP, assistant professor of speech-language pathology
Vikas Grover, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, assistant professor of speech-language pathology

[14th Merritt's Neurology Continues Columbia Tradition](#)

Columbia University - 11/1/2021

Stephan A. Mayer M.D., professor of neurology and neurosurgery

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