

Fall 2020

Fall 2020 SOM Alumni Connections

New York Medical College

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SOM ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Fall 2020



Meet the Chair of the Board

After serving for nearly a decade as a member of the Board of Trustees of New York Medical College (NYMC), **Joseph D. Mark** has been appointed as chair of its Board of Trustees. A former investment banker and health care executive, Mr. Mark is fueled by his interest in the health science and education fields and his professional accomplishments include investing in and cofounding several health care companies. Blending his professional and philanthropic passions, Mr. Mark believes that contributions of "time, experience, and money" can help organizations achieve their missions. [Read the full article on Joseph D. Mark, chair of the Board of Trustees.](#)

NYMC Welcomes Newest Cohort of Medical Students

It was not the traditional start to medical school, but the NYMC community welcomed the School of Medicine (SOM) Class of 2024 with virtual arms and physical distancing for "Transition to Medical School" during the week of July 27. The SOM Office of Student Affairs spared no effort to prepare the SOM Class of 2024 for their journey to becoming skilled compassionate physicians--organizing online activities, live and pre-recorded Zoom presentations, and in-person physically distanced meetings with house advisory deans under the tent on campus. Sessions on physical and mental health and wellness, professionalism, financial aid, career planning, diversity and inclusion, research opportunities and interprofessionalism, as well as student-led sessions aimed at providing an insider's glimpse of medical student life, provided the tools for the SOM Class of 2024 to succeed during the next four years of their medical education. [Read the full article on the SOM Class of 2024 and view the photo gallery.](#)



NYMC Enters Academic Affiliation with NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln

NYMC and NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln, have entered into an academic affiliation designating the hospital as a teaching site for NYMC's undergraduate medical students. The hospital will offer core clerkships in pediatrics, medicine, surgery and psychiatry, as well as elective rotations in emergency medicine and surgical and medical subspecialties. NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln is a full-service acute care hospital, serving the downtown Bronx community. [Read the full article on the affiliation.](#)



\$100,000 Gift from Henry Saphier, M.D. '61, Will Support Important COVID-19 Research

For **Henry Saphier, M.D. '61**, his commitment to NYMC is a "labor of love" that began at birth and has spanned his entire life. Dr. Saphier was born at Flower Free Surgical Hospital, which was built by NYMC in 1889 as the first teaching hospital in the country to be owned by a medical college. The obstetrician that delivered him was Carl Salzman, M.D., a member of the NYMC Class of 1924. [Read the full article on Dr. Saphier.](#)



Research on Rapid Diagnostic Test for COVID-19 Underway at NYMC

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, researchers around the world have been working to develop a rapid diagnostic approach to test for the highly infectious Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Research is now underway at NYMC to validate novel rapid diagnostic approach to track the presence of SARS-CoV-2 and diagnose COVID-19 using a colorimetric reverse transcription loopmediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP) that will provide accurate detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA within 30 minutes. [Read the full article on the rapid COVID-19 test.](#)

NYMC Students Distribute Masks and Good Will with the Mask Transit Project

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and medical student clinical rotations were canceled, **Shreya Makkapati**, SOM Class 2021, knew she wanted to continue some form of patient care. That opportunity arose in early April when she was approached by Aishwarya Raja, a medical student at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, whom she met through a group for Indian females in medicine. Ms. Raja is a founder of [Mask Transit](#), a grassroots organization that distributes masks and educational material about mask hygiene to vulnerable populations -- populations Ms. Makkapati cared for during most of her third-year clerkships. [Read the full article on the Mask Transit and view the photo gallery.](#)



NYMC Receives \$594K NIH Shared Instrumentation Grant



The collaborative efforts by a team of NYMC faculty researchers from across all of the basic science disciplines have paid off to the tune of nearly \$600,000. The grant proposal team made up of nearly 20 NYMC faculty and led by Dana G. Mordue, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology and immunology, secured a Shared Instrumentation Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which will be used to purchase a new high-resolution confocal microscope. This new microscope will be critical to the College's biomedical research. The confocal system will allow NYMC's researchers to quantitatively visualize dynamic processes in living specimens gently over extended periods of time (4D imaging). The increased sensitivity and high resolution will be particularly valuable to image thicker tissue sections/slices in a wide variety of biological specimens. [Read the full article on the NIH grant.](#)

Founder's Dinner Brings NYMC Community Together Virtually

The New York Medical College (NYMC) community gathered online to celebrate the first ever virtual Founder's Dinner. Leadership, inspiration and education, were the themes of the video viewed by College supporters on the evening of October 21, while a live chat feature kept the audience engaged with each other. The event honored distinguished community leaders and alumni, and paid homage to the students and faculty on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the full article on the Founder's Dinner, view the video and peruse the journal.](#)



Six COVID-19 Symposiums Have Addressed "What Have We Learned? How Can We Use What We Have Learned?"

On September 24, nearly eight months after New York Medical College (NYMC) and the Touro College and University System (TCUS) hosted its first COVID-19 symposium, the College hosted its sixth in the series during which faculty experts shared the latest updates on COVID-19. In his introductory remarks, Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer, spoke of the shared sense of frustration, felt throughout our entire nation, around the lack of understanding about when the COVID-19 crisis will be finally under control. "We at New York Medical College and the Touro College and University System are going to keep providing you with the most

current information on the pandemic, so that you can negotiate the situation as it evolves," he said. [Read the full article and view the video.](#)



NYMC Hosts Writing Workshop to Empower Students to Use Their Written Voice

More than 60 students from NYMC and the Touro College and University System participated in the Student Workshop: The Craft of Op-Ed Writing, presented by the NYMC Office of Public Relations. The Zoom workshop was created, amidst the nationwide protests against deep-rooted racial inequity, to empower students to use their written voice to express themselves and engage in dialogue. Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer, met with College's leaders across various programs and schools to challenge them to find new ways to improve diversity and inclusion for the NYMC community. The Office of Public Relations had already been working with faculty to sharpen their op-ed writing skills. "We realized we had this perfect opportunity to share these writing "tools" with our students so they too could lend their diverse voices to the ongoing dialogue," said Jennifer Riekert, M.B.A., vice president of communications and strategic initiatives. [View the workshop here.](#)



NYMC Unveils Free Community Food Pantry

Donate what you can, take what you need, is the idea behind the NYMC free community food pantry, located outside of the Alumni House at 20 Sunshine Cottage Road. The micro pantry will be stocked with non-perishable food items and other items donated by the NYMC community. The pantry will be monitored by volunteers coordinated by the Student Healthcare Executives Club (StuHE) in the School of Health Sciences and Practice (SHSP). It is not supervised for Jewish dietary law observance. [Read the full article on the NYMC food pantry.](#)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

After founding the bariatric program at Huntington Hospital in 2012, **David Buchin, M.D. '01**, went on to transform that center into a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). [Read the full article on Dr. Buchin.](#)



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



As SOM's most senior admissions officer, **Karen M. Murray, M.D. '99**, associate dean for admissions for the School of Medicine, and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is paving the way for improved diversity in medical education. [Read more about Dr. Murray.](#)



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