

Summer 2020

## Summer 2020 SHSP Alumni Connections

New York Medical College

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## SHSP ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Summer 2020



Dear Alumni and Friends,

The atrocious events of recent weeks have delivered a painful reminder of how much healing work remains to be done in our professional fields, and within our society at large. It is at distressing times like this that I take some comfort in the nobleness of our health professions and our unique gift to be agents for a better world. Public health and the restorative capabilities of physical therapy and speech-language can be potent countermeasures against hatred, despair and violence. We all have come to respect the intrinsic value of every human life, the human spirit's enormous potential to reach for distant stars, and the unspeakable tragedy of needless death. Although we are all exceptionally stressed at present, let us resolve to open our hearts, open new conversations, and redouble our commitments to the values and determination that brought us to the professions we hold so dear. As your alma mater, New York Medical College (NYMC) continues its mission of medical and health professions education, biomedical and public health research, and service to society. Let us all work together for the broad mission of a healthy world.

Sincerely,

**Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A.**

Vice President for Government Affairs and Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice  
Professor of Public Health, Pediatrics and Environmental Health Science

### Chancellor Hosts Town Hall Meeting

Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer **Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A.**, and the NYMC/Touro College of Dental Medicine (TCDM) leadership gave a State of the College update to the community on June 3. It was the third online town hall meeting since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Dr. Halperin took the opportunity to also address the other perpetual pandemic, racism and its lethal consequences. "We have been actively meeting to develop an action plan of what we can and will do better on our campus and in our own family," Dr. Halperin said. "NYMC cannot by itself rewrite 401 years of American history but what we can do and what we will do is strive to do our part to change that part of the American experience within our grasp. We will do that." [View the Town Hall Meeting.](#)





## NYMC Celebrates the Class of 2020 with Online Pomp and Circumstance

It may not have been a typical Commencement--yet NYMC's 161st and the TCDM's Inaugural Commencement celebrations were collectively a smashing success to behold. Not even the dictate to socially distance could put a damper on the tangible sense of pride and joy shared throughout the NYMC and Touro communities, as they collectively viewed the online pomp and circumstance via a YouTube video premiere at 7:00 p.m. on May 19. [Read the full article on Commencement and view the video and photo gallery.](#)

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## Days of Giving Raises More than \$530,000 for Student Scholarships

For two days on June 9 and 10, the NYMC community came together to raise \$536,723 for student scholarships. A group of generous donors contributed funds to match the 233 gifts made during Days of Giving 2020. It was the most successful Days of Giving campaign to date. With increased scholarship support, students in the School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences and the School of Health Sciences and Practice (SHSP) can focus on their studies rather than worrying about loan debt. The additional scholarship money comes at a time of great magnitude when the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in financial hardships for some students who fear they may have difficulty remaining in school. [Read more about student scholarships.](#)



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## Governor Cuomo Hosts Daily Briefings at NYMC

Twice within the span of a month, the Center for Disaster Medicine at NYMC became the backdrop for New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Daily Press Briefing. First, on May 7, during his briefing on the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor expressed his enormous sense of gratitude for the courage shown by the health care workers at the frontline of the COVID-19 crisis. [Read the full article on the May 7 briefing, view the photo gallery and view the video.](#) Then, on June 9 -- which marked 101 days since New York State's first positive case of COVID-19 and Day 16 since the police-directed murder of George Floyd fueled protests and civic unrest throughout the U.S. - Governor Cuomo returned to NYMC. This time he provided both an update on COVID-19 in New York and reflected on the current situation saying it is not just a moment for political protest, it is time for real reform. [Read the full article on the June 9 briefing and view the video.](#)



## Faculty from NYMC and Zucker School of Medicine Create Public Outreach Tool to Educate Children about the Science of COVID-19

In the name of public health outreach, Adam E. Block, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health in the SHSP Division of Health Policy and Management at NYMC, partnered with his wife, Lauren Block, M.D., M.P.H., a primary care physician at Northwell Health and an associate professor at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, to create [Kelly Stays Home: The Science of Coronavirus](#). The free e-book seeks to educate children ages 5 to 12 about the science behind the current COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the full article on the book and watch the video.](#)

## Kelly Stays Home

The Science of Coronavirus



By Lauren Block MD MPH and Adam E. Block PhD  
Illustrated by Alex Brissenden

## NYMC Collaborates with Regeneron for COVID-19 Clinical Drug Trials

*Drug trial at Westchester Medical Center puts NYMC among top researchers in the nation racing to find an effective treatment to fight COVID-19*

When COVID-19 first hit our shores in early March with no vaccine nor proven drug treatment in sight, new innovative collaborations sprouted up across the nation, as leading research institutions, pharmaceutical companies and hospitals joined forces to find a solution fast. Among them -- a collaborative clinical drug trial by NYMC and Regeneron launched at Westchester Medical Center (WMC) within the first few weeks. Seeking a partner with whom to establish a clinical drug trial that could be used to treat patients critically ill with COVID-19, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals proposed the collaboration -- not only for NYMC's state-of-the-art virology labs and internationally regarded experts -- but because of the College's decades-long involvement in the annual development of the influenza vaccine. [Read the full story on the Regeneron clinical trials here.](#)



## Allen J. Dozor, M.D., Appointed Interim Vice President of BCHP

Allen J. Dozor, M.D., professor of pediatrics and clinical public health and chief of the Division of Pulmonology, Allergy and Sleep Medicine at New York Medical College and director of the Children's Environmental Health Center of the Hudson Valley has been appointed interim vice president of Boston Children's Health Physicians (BCHP). An esteemed leader and visionary within the division of Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy, Immunology and Sleep Medicine, Dr. Dozor's leadership in Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy, Immunology and Sleep Medicine has had a long record of success and growth in the areas of clinical care, research and academic education. In addition, Dr. Dozor serves as associate physician-in-chief at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at WMCHHealth and was named interim vice president of Boston Children's Health Physicians (BCHP).



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT





As reported on MSNBC, the City of Detroit had launched a successful COVID-19 testing program, which was making inroads in efforts to curb the spread. Supporting that model at the state level is epidemiologist and NYMC alumnus **Jacob Watson, M.P.H. '15**. [Read more about Mr. Watson here.](#)

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## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



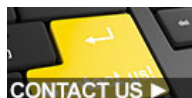
In the name of public health, **Adam E. Block, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health in the Division of Health Policy and Management, created the free, e-book, [Kelly Stays Home: The Science of Coronavirus](#), to educate children about the Science of COVID-19. [Read more about Kelly Stays Home book here.](#)

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## ALUMNI AUTHORS



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