Dean's Update, Summer 2020

Jerry L. Nadler
New York Medical College, jnadler@nymc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://touroscholar.touro.edu/nymc_som_research_newsletter

Part of the Medical Education Commons, and the Medical Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation

This Short Communication is brought to you for free and open access by the NYMC Archives Publications at Touro Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in SOM Dean's Research Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Touro Scholar. For more information, please contact Timothy J Valente touro.scholar@touro.edu.
Dear New York Medical College Community:

In recent days, our country has been gripped by outrage at the injustices we have witnessed. There is no place for racism in society today or brutality towards others in any form, and it is important that we stand strongly and united against racism and police brutality. As physicians and healers, we have a special responsibility to affect change in health care disparities and to channel our energy to push for changes in laws and leadership that will address the fundamental problems that have led to these continued inequalities and suffering. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking to a large group of physicians and health care workers, once said, "Of all the inequalities that exist, the injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhuman." We all have an opportunity and a challenge to address racial injustice that still exists in health care.

At New York Medical College (NYMC), the rich diversity of our students and the varied perspectives and personal experiences they bring to their medical education are integral to our community, and we must work even harder to ensure that we provide a safe, supportive environment where those diverse voices are welcomed and fully heard.

A recent session facilitated by Camille A. Clare, M.D., M.P.H. ’11, associate dean of diversity and inclusion, and Reon Baird-Feldman, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, assistant professor of psychiatry and co-director of Student Mental Health and Wellness, on "Managing our Mental Health: A Candid Conversation on Race and Riots" offered participants an opportunity to share their viewpoints in a nonjudgmental forum. We will continue to host more such forums as well as a school-wide town hall to address health care disparities.

Institutionally, we have developed an action plan on what we can and will do better in our curriculum, our physical plant and administrative structure to address racism. In addition, I encourage those students who are having difficulties to reach out to our Student Mental Health and Wellness Services team or our Office of Diversity and Inclusion for further support.

I personally appreciate the open and frank feedback from our students. I hear you, and in follow up communications, our deans will provide further details and answers. It is encouraging that the peaceful protests all over the country are making a real difference. I have faith that better days are ahead for all of us. I hope that you are all safe and well and look forward to once again seeing you in person.

New Beginnings

This is a new beginning for each of our student classes as they prepare to transition to the next phase in their medical education, including our incoming Class of 2024, whom we look forward to welcoming soon. For our new graduates, we are proud to send them forth well prepared as they embark on their careers as young physicians, eager to make a positive impact in the world.

Over the past few months, we have also experienced new beginnings as we converted our course delivery from in-person to online. Since that time, we have continued to advance our curriculum despite our challenges. We created new virtual electives in Patient Safety and Health Systems Sciences with the goal of providing our students with the foundation to enable them to critically analyze and resolve
the patient safety-related issues they will undoubtedly face during residency, as well as an additional lens through which to view the current COVID-19 pandemic. I thank our course directors, Undergraduate Medical Education staff and Information Technology staff.

New Affiliate Agreements

At NYMC, we take pride in our robust network of affiliated hospitals that offer our students an outstanding range of educational opportunities to further develop their clinical skills. Therefore, I am particularly pleased to announce a new affiliate agreement with NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln in the Bronx. Lincoln is a full service acute care hospital and one of the premier trauma centers in the country, and this marks a major enhancement to the clinical learning environment for our students. I am pleased that we will also be expanding elective opportunities at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx.

In addition, we have expanded our affiliate agreement with Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn, which will now host both third-year clerkships and fourth-year elective programs. We have developed a new ACGME-accredited fellowship program in gastroenterology at Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey. We are expanding the NYMC Emergency Medicine Residency Program at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan to provide full resident coverage of the Emergency Department at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem. The new NYMC Anesthesiology Residency Program at Metropolitan begins training its first class of house staff this July.

Student Volunteerism Recognized

In the last newsletter, I spoke of the tremendous effort our students have put forth in support of our community and our front line health care workers during this time of great need. In the weekly updates, I hear of their continued and incredibly well-coordinated volunteer activity. I am amazed at their dedication, and they continue to be an incredible inspiration. So, I am particularly gratified to share that The Arnold Gold Foundation recently awarded the NYMC chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society the outstanding ranking for its extraordinary contribution to humanism in health care. The students are currently working on an academic paper incorporating all of their volunteer projects. I look forward to sharing that with you, so that you too will have a full appreciation of the breadth of their efforts.

2020 Graduation Questionnaire

The NYMC School of Medicine (SOM) response rate in the AAMC’s 2020 Graduation Questionnaire is 80.2%—nearly 8 points higher than the national overall completion rate and more than 6 points higher than our 2019 results. We thank the Class of 2020 for their participation and look forward to engaging as a community to continue to affect change. We will be reviewing the information, and based on your feedback, take appropriate positive actions.

Plans for Reopening Campus

We are extremely pleased to be entering into phase one of our lab reopenings on campus. While this is an important step forward, it is vital that those authorized for phase one strictly follow the reopening protocols to ensure the safety and security of all.

As per New York State executive order, the Mid-Hudson Valley entered phase two of reopening on Tuesday, June 9. This is good news for our region. For the last several months, we have been busy as a team working on pre-clinical and clinical recovery opening efforts to provide the best possible educational experience for our students, while also following safety guidelines for the health of our students, faculty and staff. A detailed document outlining our reopening plan has been submitted to the State and further information will be shared on the website, via email and through town halls.

All lectures will continue in a virtual format but several pre-clinical experiences will take place on campus with extra distancing provided. We are excited to help our M3 and M4 students go back to clinical rotations on schedule. We have obtained necessary PPE and will perform fit testing and TB testing for students who need these procedures before entering their rotations or electives.

I look forward to a time in the not too distant future when we can physically come together once again as a community. In the interim, it is my hope that you all remain safe and healthy.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., MACP, FAHA, FACE
Dean of the School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology
Ebrahim Afshinnekoo Receives Prestigious U.S. Public Health Award

Ebrahim Afshinnekoo, a member of the NYMC SOM Class of 2021, has received the prestigious 2020 Excellence in Public Health Award by the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) in recognition of his commitment and work to improve health disparities and for exemplifying the USPHS' mission to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the U.S.

The award was presented by Lieutenant Colin Smith, medical officer in the Commission Core of the USPHS, during the NYMC SOM virtual hooding and awards ceremony on May 17.

"Ebrahim's groundbreaking work will play a major role in the future of public health, and we are extremely proud to count him among our students at NYMC. This honor is very well deserved," says Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., SOM dean.

Faculty in the News

The notable achievements and experience of the NYMC faculty in the health sciences is well recognized. Therefore, their expertise is often sought by the media. This is just a small sampling of faculty recently featured in the news.

Camille Clare, M.D., M.P.H. ’11, associate dean of diversity and inclusion for SOM and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, on the racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 deaths – City Limit, April 25, 2020

Albert Kwon, M.D., assistant professor of anesthesiology, on COVID-19 patients sharing ventilators – NOVA, May 12, 2020

Robert H. Lahita, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine, on treating COVID-19 patients with hydroxychloroquine – CBS News, May 18, 2020

Karen M. Murray, M.D. ’99, associate dean for admissions for the SOM and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on medical school admissions – Forbes, April 22, 2020

Michael H. Gewitz, M.D., professor of pediatrics and vice chair of the Department of Pediatrics, on COVID-related illness in children – Daily Mirror, May 12, 2020
DEAN’S UPDATE

Master’s and Certificate in Medical Ethics Launched

Under the auspices of the Biomedical Ethics and Humanities Program, a master’s and certificate in medical ethics has been launched to prepare professionals to address biomedical ethics issues in research, clinical and organizational practice and in social discourse.

Beginning in the fall, students in the program will have the option to earn a Master of Science in Medical Ethics or Graduate Certificate in Medical Ethics. Students may also enroll in courses for personal-professional development. In addition to courses in clinical ethics and medical humanities, the program will offer instruction in Jewish medical ethics and organizational ethics and values-driven leadership in health care. Ira J. Bedzow, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine and the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at NYMC, serves as director of the program.

“We are in a moment where health leaders, clinicians and the general public are looking for answers for how to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as how to cope with its aftermath and best meet the moral and social challenges we are facing. The NYMC Biomedical Ethics and Humanities Program is committed to providing curriculum and guidance in clinical ethics, organizational health care ethics and general ethics as it pertains to health and medicine, making NYMC and Touro the leaders of medical and health care ethics education going forward,” said Dr. Bedzow.

Read more about the program. Follow the program on Facebook and Twitter.

Medical Students Deliver a COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Community

When the first- and second-year medical school curriculum transitioned to remote learning in early March of 2020 and the magnitude of the COVID-19 outbreak became apparent, in true NYMC fashion, a group of medical students brainstormed about how they could help the community at large.

With restrictions on medical students providing clinical care and State-mandated social distancing in order to flatten the curve, a group of medical students led by Katherine French and Alessandra Piscina, members of the SOM Class of 2022, decided to develop an online resource guide for Westchester County with up-to-date information and resources available to the community.

Read the full article on the COVID-19 Community Resource Guide.

Faculty Publications

NYMC faculty are notable scholars who are published regularly across a wide range of health science disciplines. This is just a small sample of recent publications.

Jana Veliskova, M.D., Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy, and Libor Velisek, M.D., Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy, published “ACTON PROLONGATUM (R) Suppresses Spasms Head to Head with Acthar (R) Gel in the Model of Infantile Spasms,” in Epilepsy & Behavior.


Aaqib A. Malik, M.D., M.P.H., clinical assistant professor of medicine, Wilbert Aronow, M.D., professor of medicine, and Hasan Ahmad, M.D., clinical associate professor of medicine, published “Trends and Outcomes with Transcatheter Versus Surgical Mitral Valve Repair in Patients >= 80 Years of Age,” in the American Journal of Cardiology.

See full list of recent Faculty Publications.
DEAN’S UPDATE

Medical Students Elected to Student National Medical Association Board

Reba Gillis, SOM Class of 2021, has been elected national vice president and Kamilah Dee Evans, SOM Class of 2021, has been appointed national external affairs committee co-chair of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA).

Ms. Gillis has previously served on the SNMA Board of Directors as internal affairs co-chair, vice chair of the Convention Planning Committee and president of the SNMA Chapter at NYMC. She hopes to pursue a residency in emergency medicine or internal medicine with a fellowship in hematology and oncology. At NYMC, Ms. Gillis is a co-founder of the Gun Safety Coalition and was treasurer for the Oncology Interest Group. Her passion for volunteer work was also demonstrated through her time performing manual blood pressure readings on World Hypertension Day and supporting a Secret Santa effort conducted for a non-profit organization catering to her community in Brooklyn.

Ms. Evans is a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society and serves as the training facilitator for the Resiliency Curriculum, teaching students and residents on mental health and suicide prevention. Previously, she served as the MAPS Liaison for SNMA, mentoring minority high school and college students through the medical application process. She also served as treasurer for Medical Students for Choice, an organization focused on reproductive health and curriculum reform during medical school.

We thank Camille Clare, M.D., M.P.H. ’11, faculty mentor for the NYMC SNMA chapter.

2020-21 Student Representatives

Recently, elections for the Student Senate and House Representatives and Executive Board were held for the 2020-21 academic year. Congratulations to all of our new student representatives. We look forward to working with them next year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Senate</th>
<th>Executive Board</th>
<th>Latino Medical Students Association (NYMC Chapter)</th>
<th>Student National Medical Association (NYMC Chapter)</th>
<th>Student Club Leadership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President: Kelsey O’Hagan, Class of 2022</td>
<td>President: Yedidya Benavie, Class of 2021</td>
<td>Co-President: Lara Mattei, Class of 2023</td>
<td>New leadership to be voted on June 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President: Scarlett Tohme, Class of 2021</td>
<td>Co-Vice President: Bertie Zhang, Class of 2021</td>
<td>Co-President: Bessie Roca, Class of 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer: Matthew Holstein, Class of 2022</td>
<td>Co-Vice President: Nicole Matluck, Class of 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Chair: Jood Ani, Class of 2022</td>
<td>Treasurer: Scott Lewis, Class of 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Mariah Fontanez-Lutsky, Class of 2023</td>
<td>Speaker of the House: Kelvin Tam, Class of 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary: Sarah Newman, Class of 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House/Year</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>House/Year</th>
<th>Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branch House 2023</td>
<td>Katie Roster</td>
<td>Lozier House 2023</td>
<td>Mark Berkowitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch House 2022</td>
<td>Sabrina Kohanzad</td>
<td>Lozier House 2022</td>
<td>Kathryn Annand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch House 2021</td>
<td>Amanda Ramadan</td>
<td>Lozier House 2021</td>
<td>Eric Feldstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant House 2023</td>
<td>Forouhid Peyvandi</td>
<td>Remsen House 2023</td>
<td>Faria Rahman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant House 2022</td>
<td>Adonai Sebastian</td>
<td>Remsen House 2022</td>
<td>Justin Tepe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant House 2021</td>
<td>Shirley Shen</td>
<td>Remsen House 2021</td>
<td>Jacob Reilly-Luther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burgess Holley House 2023</td>
<td>Patrick Crockin</td>
<td>Steward House 2023</td>
<td>Albert Yao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burgess Holley House 2022</td>
<td>Jennifer Cillis</td>
<td>Steward House 2022</td>
<td>Mei Pang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Crump House 2023</td>
<td>Joseph Trainer</td>
<td>Stowe House 2023</td>
<td>Sam Honig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Crump House 2022</td>
<td>Kuldeep Mahal</td>
<td>Stowe House 2022</td>
<td>Jordana Herblum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Crump House 2022</td>
<td>Shloimy Gold</td>
<td>Stowe House 2021</td>
<td>Jenny Wiseman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Crump House 2021</td>
<td>Mendel Teitelbaum</td>
<td>Wright House 2023</td>
<td>Jonah Lowenstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kogel House 2023</td>
<td>Huma Ashai</td>
<td>Wright House 2022</td>
<td>Benjamin Rosen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kogel House 2022</td>
<td>Amanda Molinelli</td>
<td>Wright House 2021</td>
<td>Miguel Barrios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kogel House 2021</td>
<td>Matthew Chamberlain</td>
<td>Wright House 2021</td>
<td>Blake Wall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>