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School of Health Sciences and Practice

Alumni Connections

Summer 2019

Summer 2019 SHSP Alumni Connections

New York Medical College

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Message from the Dean



Dear School of Health Sciences and Practice (SHSP) Alumni,

I hope you enjoy this edition of Alumni Connections! We are proud to report some of the exciting new developments at your alma mater. First, our new vice dean, Benjamin (Ben) F. Johnson, Ed.D., who joined the College in July, is already fully engaged in a campus-wide strategic planning initiative, as well as some new academic programming in concert with our faculty. Our newest offering, in pediatric dysphagia (swallowing disorders) has expanded in a new online teaching format developed by the faculty in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology.

Our public health faculty hosted several nationally-recognized health care leaders as guests in the Dean's Leadership Lecture Series including April Smith-Hirak, Ph.D., acting regional health administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Gerald Culliton, M.P.A., FACHE, former director, VA Connecticut Healthcare System and Thomas Feeley, M.D., senior fellow at the Harvard Business School and professor emeritus at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Our Institute of Public Health has expanded its impact with significant funding increases for the Center for Disaster Medicine and the Center for Children's Environmental Health, supported respectively by Empire State Development and New York State Department of Health.

Finally, we said our best wishes to retiring vice dean Ben Watson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, last month, as he became our school's second vice dean emeritus. Dr. Watson and his predecessor, James O'Brien, Ph.D., have left a tremendous legacy of commitment to excellence that will sustain our school well into the future.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US, so we can report your post-SHSP achievements and share your success with your former classmates, fellow alumni and the rest of our SHSP community!

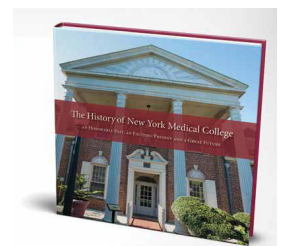
Best always,

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

SHSP Welcomes New Vice Dean Benjamin F. Johnson, Ed.D.

The School of Health Sciences and Practice (SHSP) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Benjamin (Ben) F. Johnson, Ed.D.**, as vice dean. He joined the College community on July 1, succeeding Ben Watson, Ph.D., who retired from the position at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Johnson was selected from a national search led by a committee chaired by Susan L. Ronan, P.T., D.P.T., PCS, assistant professor of physical therapy. [Read the full article on Dr. Johnson.](#)

NYMC HISTORY BOOK



These stunning pages take the reader on a journey through time -- beginning with the



College's founding in 1860 through 2017.

[Order your copy today.](#)

CALLING ALUMNI AUTHORS



Published a book in 2019? New York Medical College would love to hear about it.

If you authored a book published in 2019, please [email the Office of Public Relations](#) the title of the book, a brief synopsis, image of the book cover and a short bio.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Ingrid R. Maurice Knowles, M.P.H. '16

Ensuring New York City's Emergency Response Groups are emergency ready.

New York Medical College Celebrates 160th Commencement



On May 22, 2019, a perfect spring day at the 160th Commencement exercises in the iconic Carnegie Hall, New York Medical College's (NYMC) graduating Class of 2019 listened with rapt attention as George D. Yancopoulos, M.D., Ph.D., co-founder, president and chief scientific officer of Regeneron, took to the stage to deliver the Commencement address, saying, "You have an incredible opportunity to change human life-make sure you take this responsibility on with grit and perseverance." [Read the full article and view the 2019 Commencement week photo albums.](#)

NYMC Observes Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day



NYMC observed Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, with a presentation, "One Man's Quest: Remembering the Holocaust, Restoring Jewish Heritage and Making Sure That 'Never Again' is Given Meaning," presented by guest speaker **Michael Lozman, D.D.S.**, third from left, founder of the Restoration of European Jewish Cemeteries, Inc., and the Capital District Jewish Holocaust Memorial, LLC. [Read the full article on Yom Hashoah.](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

NYMC Students Published in Medical Journals



Andrew Keltz
Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) candidate

It's an impressive feat for anyone to get published in an academic medical journal, even more so to be published as a student--yet three impressive NYMC students recently achieved just that.

In October of 2018, **Brian Tung**, left, School of Medicine (SOM) Class of 2022, authored "Krüppel-like factor 9 and histone deacetylase inhibitors synergistically induce cell death in glioblastoma stem-like cells," which was published in the peer-reviewed medical journal, BMC Cancer. Then in April, **Jeffrey Omar Patrick**, center, an M.P.H. student in the SHSP, and **Adam M. Karp**, right, SOM Class of 2019, in collaboration with Mill Etienne M.D. '02, M.P.H., associate dean for student affairs and clinical assistant professor of neurology, and NYMC alumnus Nathan Carberry, M.D. '17, co-authored, "Healing through Self-Expression: The Role of Art Therapy in Medicine," which was published in the Journal of Health and Human Experience. [Read the full article on the student publications.](#)

*From Show Biz to SLP:
How one student's
passion for singing on
stage led him to NYMC.*

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



**Kenneth A. Knapp,
Ph.D.**

Director of the Center for Long-Term Care Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management

*Shedding light on the
growing caregiver
shortage.*



Center for Disaster Medicine Receives Funding and Expands Training Programs

NYMC Center for Disaster Medicine, the New York State Center of Excellence in Precision Responses to Bioterrorism and Disasters, received \$925,000 from New York State, a major increase in funding for a vitally needed program. New York State increased its financial support for the Center from an initial annual pledge of \$500,000 to \$925,000, a sum that is matched by NYMC in support of the expanding work and impact of the Center. [Read the full article on the CDM funding and programs.](#)

CALL FOR ALUMNI MILESTONES



We would love to share your most recent news and accomplishments in our next issue of the [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.



Department of Physical Therapy Hosts 15th Annual Doctoral Project Presentation Day

Forty-four future doctors of physical therapy took to the podium to present their projects at the 15th Annual Doctoral Project Presentation Day. Students shared their findings in the areas of clinical research, education or public health service. This year's projects addressed a wide assortment of topics such as an educational program on police recruits running tests, cultural competency, genomics in the physical therapy curriculum and the incidence of pressure ulcers for patients with spinal cord injury in Bangladesh, among others. [Read the full article and view the Doctoral Project Presentation Day photo gallery.](#)

IN THE NEWS



D.P.T. Class of 2021 Marks Milestone at White Coat Ceremony

It was a time of celebration and reflection for the Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) Class of 2021 at the White Coat Ceremony on April 8, marking the transition of their education from the classroom and laboratory into the clinic and affirming their commitment to physical therapy and patient care. Families and friends and other supporters of the students joined to recognize the milestone transition and progression in their education as physical therapists. [Read the full article and view D.P.T. White Coat Ceremony photo gallery.](#)

SHSP Hosts Special Dean's Lecture

The School of Health Sciences and Practice hosted a special Dean's Lecture, part of its Dean's Distinguished Leaders Lecture Series, welcoming **April Smith-Hirak, Ph.D.**, second from right, acting regional health administrator and deputy regional health administrator for Region 2 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as the guest lecturer. Dr. Smith-Hirak presented "Emerging Issues in Federal Public Health." [Read the full story on the SHSP Dean's Lecture.](#)



As leaders in a variety of specialties and fields, New York Medical College's faculty have been called upon by media outlets to serve as experts on cutting edge topics, events and news stories. Read the latest offerings of [NYMC in the news](#).

ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY



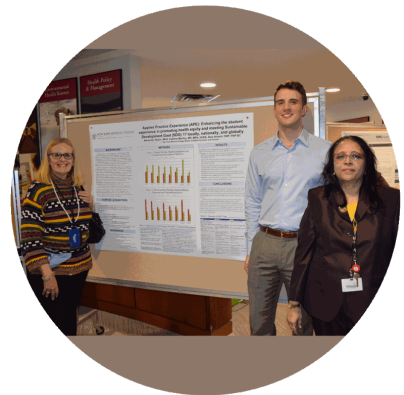
Register for the [Alumni Online Community](#) to connect with fellow alumni, increase your opportunities to stay up to date on Alumni news and events.

SHSP Hosts Seminar on "HRTP: A Public Health Internship Program"



The School of Health Sciences and Practice hosted a seminar, "HRTP: A Public Health Internship Program," as part of its spring seminar series. The Health Research Training Program (HRTP) of the New York City Department of Health is one of the oldest and largest public health traineeships in the country, providing opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and professional school students to work on current relevant public health issues under the close supervision and mentorship of experienced professionals and apply classroom learning to practical problems in a closely matched practicum. [Read the full story on the SHSP Seminar.](#)

SHSP Presents Inaugural Research Showcase



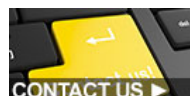
The School of Health Sciences and Practice (SHSP) hosted the inaugural Research Showcase for faculty to present their ongoing work to familiarize students and the New York Medical College community with their projects and to highlight the opportunities for cross-disciplinary interactions. Twenty-one posters and 12 oral presentations provided a glimpse at the many community-service and research projects currently underway. [Read the full article and view the photo gallery of the SHSP Research Showcase.](#)

Upcoming Events



Founder's Dinner
September 18, 2019
5:00 p.m.
The Surf Club on the Sound
 New Rochelle, New York

More than 300 academic, healthcare, business and community leaders will gather to celebrate NYMC's proud history and promising future, and to honor distinguished community leaders for their impactful and transformative achievements. Proceeds directly benefit our students through supporting scholarships and important initiatives.





For more information and [ways to give](#), please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at (914) 594-2720 or development@nymc.edu.

Alumni Connections is New York Medical College's e-newsletter distributed to all alumni, published quarterly by the Office of Public Relations. Suggestions for story ideas are always welcome. Please call or email with your comments and inquiries at (914) 594-4536 or public_relations@nymc.edu.

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