

10-2021

Dean's Update, October 2021

Jerry Nadler

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Dear Members of the New York Medical College (NYMC) Community,

Over the summer, the School of Medicine (SOM) welcomed two new academic chairs. Tracey A. Milligan, M.D., joined us as our chair of the Department of Neurology and Mark D. Hurwitz, M.D., joined us as the chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine. Both Drs. Milligan and Hurwitz also serve as directors of the corresponding departments at Westchester Medical Center. Special thanks are extended to the former chairs of those departments, Brij M. Singh Ahluwalia, M.D., professor of neurology, and Chitti R. Moorthy, M.D., clinical professor of radiation medicine, for their hard work and commitment to the SOM and our students.

After 25 years of dedicated service to NYMC, Richard McCarrick, M.D., M.H.A., vice chancellor for College student services and SOM vice dean for Graduate Medical Education and Continuing Medical Education, will retire from NYMC later this month. As the College's designated institutional officer (DIO) of the Graduate Medical and Dental Education Consortium, Dr. McCarrick has served as a highly visible institutional leader with the important responsibility of maintaining the College's accreditation as a sponsoring institution by the

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

I am pleased to share that Paul Diamond, M.D., the Catherine and Vladislav P. Hinterbuchner Professor and Chair of Rehabilitation Medicine at NYMC and director of rehabilitation medicine at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan, has agreed to serve as interim DIO for the College. In addition to taking on the responsibility for the institutional accreditation by the ACGME, Dr. Diamond will also oversee and administer all graduate medical education programs sponsored by the SOM by assuring compliance with ACGME institutional, common and specialty-specific program requirements, as well as other applicable professional, educational, accreditation and regulatory standards.

NYMC has launched a national search for a new DIO and we are grateful to John T. Pellicone, M.D., FACP, FCCP, FAACVPR, associate dean for medical education and assistant professor of medicine in the SOM and chief medical officer at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan, for agreeing to chair the search committee.

We are quite close to naming a vice chair of research for pathology, immunology and microbiology, which will be under the leadership of Humayun Islam, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Department. We have had an excellent slate of candidates to consider and are now meeting with finalists for the position. Our search for three new junior faculty in the basic sciences is also underway. I look forward to sharing the news of these appointment soon.

We are also collectively embarking on a major SOM curriculum redesign. More details will be provided through town halls, group and committee meetings and focused newsletters.

2022-2027 SOM Strategic Plan

As I shared in the last newsletter, the SOM has embarked on a comprehensive process to develop the 2022-2027 SOM Strategic Plan. Key to this process are the working groups, with basic and clinical faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other community partners working together to reflect on SOM strategic priorities and effectively align identified goals with accreditation criteria. More information on the areas of focus and a list of working group members is available on [NYMC's SOM Strategic Plan webpage](#).

I am grateful to the working group members for their ongoing commitment to this important task. I look forward to updating the SOM community as additional information becomes available.

Recent Campus Events

As the pandemic continues to recede, I am pleased to see the campus more active once again. This enthusiasm was particularly evident at the recent Student Club Fair with more than 75 clubs participating and NYMC now boasting 90 clubs--the highest number of clubs in its history. Special thanks to Anthony Sozzo, M.A., M.S.Ed., associate dean for student affairs and director of student financial planning and student activities, for his hard work and commitment to our students.

During a wonderful September luncheon in recognition of Women in Medicine Month, outside of the Medical Education Center (MEC), dozens of NYMC faculty and students had the opportunity to explore issues affecting women in medicine and science with fellow students and women leaders. Special thanks are extended to Lori Solomon, M.D. '99, M.P.H. '09, chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine; Pamela Ludmer, M.D., M.M.E.L., associate dean for curriculum integration; and Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H., vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, for organizing this very successful event.



We had the opportunity to celebrate members of the NYMC community and raise money for student scholarships at NYMC's Founder's Dinner. With the theme "Celebrating Fascinating Friends," the event honored Dr. Singh Ahluwalia and Dr. Moorthy for their years of dedicated service to NYMC. The Israel S. Kleiner Award was presented to Joseph Popack, a member of the Board of Trustees, and Penina Popack. I was especially pleased to present the Alfred B. DeIBello Distinguished Service Award to NYMC major affiliate NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan, in recognition of our long-standing relationship as the oldest continuing affiliation between a private medical school and a public hospital in the United States. Cristina Contreras, CEO, was in attendance to accept the award on Metropolitan's behalf.

Giving Thanks

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I am particularly thankful for our wonderful NYMC community. We will continue to adhere to the necessary guidelines to keep our campus community safe. I am grateful that we are able to play our part to ensure that by offering COVID-19 booster shots on campus through Marisa Montecalvo, M.D., director of Health Services, and the student health clinic team. Booster shots will soon be available at the Family Health Center here on campus. The Center, run by Dr. Solomon and her staff, is an incredible resource for both the NYMC and the local Westchester communities.

I continue to be proud to serve as dean as we work together as a community to advance NYMC and SOM.

Sincerely,

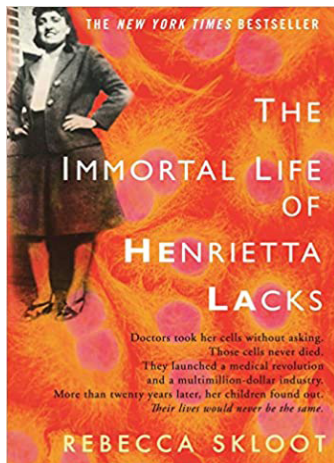
Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., MACP, FAHA, FACE

Dean of the School of Medicine

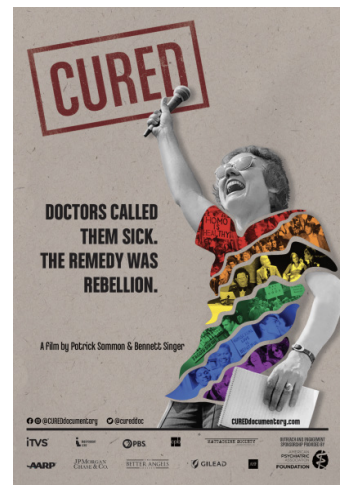
Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology

Update from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Over the past two months, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion has sponsored several events. In September, in celebration of Women in Medicine Month, the Office cohosted a luncheon on campus, with the Women in Medicine club and American Medical Women's Association chapter, at which faculty and students explored issues affecting women in medicine and science. On October 11, the Office recognized Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month with a talk on maternal and infant mortality and implicit bias, and for National Coming Out Day, worked with the LGBTQ+ Advocacy in Medicine (AIM) club to share resources and information with the NYMC community.



On November 22, at 6:30 p.m., the Office and the LGBTQ+AIM club will host a screening and discussion of the movie CURED, an award-winning documentary about the struggles the LGBTQ+ community faced and the activism to eliminate the medical establishment's view of gay and lesbian people as diseased.



On December 9, at 7 p.m., a Community Read and Book Discussion of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot will take place in conjunction with Touro College of Dental Medicine. The book explores the story of Henrietta Lacks, who unknowingly donated her cervical cancer cells in 1951 that led to the development of the immortal cell line, HeLa; Lacks' impact on medical science; and important bioethical issues, including social injustice, structural racism, medical ethics, lack of informed consent and many other societal violations that have occurred.

SOM DEAN'S UPDATE

NYMC Welcomes Class of 2025

NYMC welcomed 211 medical students to the SOM Class of 2025 during transition week over the summer that included move-in days and a week full of presentations on professionalism, success and wellness in medical school, academic policies, the student honor code, implicit bias training, career planning and research opportunities, as well as online safety training and required certifications in infection control, HIPAA, basic life support and Narcan administration.

"This is a gorgeous campus and I am beyond excited to learn at this institution with my peers," said David Zuckerman, SOM Class of 2025.

Special thanks are extended to Karen Murray, M.D. '99, associate dean for SOM admissions and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, the Admissions staff, as well as Zvi Lefkovitz, M.D., chair of the Admissions Committee, and professor and chair of the Department of Radiology, and the Admissions Committee, for securing this highly qualified class.

SOM Class of 2025 by the Numbers

15,293 total applications

211 students matriculated

48% female

Students come from 15 states

9 international students

98 undergraduate schools represented

20% are underrepresented in medicine



NYMC Forms Affiliation for Graduate Medical Education with Landmark Medical Center in Rhode Island

NYMC and Landmark Medical Center in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, have established an academic affiliation designating the hospital as a teaching site for the education of NYMC's graduate medical students. The partnership creates a residency program in internal medicine at the medical center and will be NYMC's first partnership of this kind in Rhode Island, further growing its network of affiliated sites.

"At NYMC, we are proud of the robust network of affiliated hospitals and ambulatory care sites that allows our students and residents access to an outstanding range of educational opportunities to further develop their clinical skills. This new partnership with Landmark Medical Center enables us to further expand the clinical learning environment for our residents," said SOM Dean Jerry L. Nadler. "We look forward to working with the leadership and clinicians at Landmark Medical Center on this new initiative that we are confident will be mutually beneficial for years to come."

A subsidiary of Prime Healthcare, Landmark is a 214-bed acute-care hospital that has provided a full range of extensive medical services, including emergency, diagnostic, medical, surgical, cancer, cardiac, pain management and obstetric care, to more than 175,000 patients annually throughout northern Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts for more than 140 years.

Prime Healthcare and Landmark sought out NYMC for this affiliation after witnessing the exceptional quality of NYMC's undergraduate medical education program and graduate residency and fellowship programs through NYMC's affiliation with Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey, which is also a member of Prime Healthcare. [Read full story on new academic affiliation with Landmark Medical Center.](#)



SOM DEAN'S UPDATE

2021 Club Fair Boasts Record Number of Approved Clubs

Spread throughout the lobbies of the MEC and the Basic Sciences Building (BSB), the cafeteria and the MEC plaza, this year's Club Fair featured 75 club tables. The successful event was a clear reflection of the highest number of approved student clubs in NYMC history—90.

Tables lined the designated areas with a variety of clubs, ranging from medical-oriented clubs focused on various specialties, sports-focused clubs such as Tennis Club and the Flag Football Club, and cultural clubs, such as the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA). Clubs of all interests and focuses had students, both new and returning, eager to learn more about the student organizations on campus and to sign up to participate in future events.

"The 2021 club fair exceeded all our expectations in many ways. The event planning had to comply with the NYMC COVID-19 policy while bringing



students together to socialize as well as impart club and organization information and create community. As a result, there was an overwhelming turn out and excitement for the club fair event," said Anthony M. Sozzo, M.A., M.S.Ed., associate dean for student affairs and director of student financial planning and student activities. [Read more about the Club Fair](#) and [view photos from the event](#).



Faculty Promotions

The Office of the SOM Dean congratulates our faculty who have achieved promotion in rank in their respective departments/disciplines from across our affiliate sites.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

Scott J. Costley, D.O.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine
Primary Care Preceptor

MEDICINE

Jason Goutis, M.D., M.Sc.

Assistant Professor of Medicine
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Bennett Berkowitz, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
NYMC Affiliate: Good Samaritan Hospital

PATHOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Liying Han, M.D., Ph.D.

Clinical Professor of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

PEDIATRICS

Jordan Kase, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Pediatrics
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

NEUROLOGY, NEUROSURGERY AND RADIOLOGY

Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D.

Associate Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Radiology
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

SURGERY

Kaveh Alizadeh, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Surgery
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

Masashi Kai, M.D.

Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

Prem W. Patel, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Surgery
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

UROLOGY

Lori Dyer, M.D.

Clinical Associate Professor of Urology
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

EMERITUS

Mario A. Inchiosa, Jr., Ph.D.

Professor of Pharmacology

Anesthesia Interest Group Recognized by American Society of Anesthesiology



AIG Executive Board members: Ashley Wang, Huzefa Diwan, Shuchi Gaur, Christine Colasacco and Alice Alexandrov

The NYMC SOM Anesthesia Interest Group (AIG) was recognized with the 2020-2021 Outstanding Anesthesia Interest Group Award in the Most Innovative AIG category by the American Society of Anesthesiology (ASA) Medical Student Component during the ASA Medical Student Component House of Delegates on October 10 in San Diego, California.

In announcing the award, representatives from the ASA noted that the “NYMC SOM AIG deserves recognition as a model AIG that exemplifies the mission of the ASA Medical Student Component to encourage medical student participation in anesthesiology, provide resources for medical students pursuing careers in anesthesiology and provide leadership, research and education in the field of anesthesiology, within your school. Thank you for your time and dedication in building a successful AIG.”

NYMC American Society of Anesthesiology Delegate Ashley Wang, SOM Class of 2022 and ASA Alternate Delegate Huzefa Diwan, SOM Class of 2023, traveled to San Diego to accept the award.

“Our AIG is honored to have been presented this year’s Most Innovative AIG Award by the ASA,” said Mr. Diwan. “This award is a direct result of the hard work of last year’s executive board, as well as the substantial interest of SOM students to learn about and engage with the field of anesthesiology. Even amid a pandemic that left us unable to host certain in-person events, we were nonetheless able to create an entire slate of virtual events that were not only well attended by NYMC students but interested students from across the country as well. We would certainly also like to thank all the faculty at NYMC and Westchester Medical Center who made our events possible, but especially our faculty advisors, A. Elisabeth Abramowicz, M.D., clinical professor of anesthesiology, and Garret Weber, M.D., clinical associate professor of anesthesiology.”

Garden Club Hosts Reopening of Rejuvenated Lisa Qian, M.D. '18, Memorial Garden

The NYMC Garden Club revitalized the Lisa Qian, M.D. '18, Memorial Garden, creating a new sitting area complete with a stone patio. Several club members worked over the course of five days to provide the new look to the garden, which was celebrated at a grand reopening on the sunny afternoon of September 26.

“I believe that every member of the Garden Club could recognize that the garden had so much potential, even when it was still densely overgrown with weeds,” said Kristopher Ortiz, SOM Class of 2024, president of the Garden Club.

After clearing dense portions of overgrown plants and weeds, the group laid down large amounts of mulch, gravel and stone slates, set up seating areas with benches and tables, along with a gravel walking path that winds through the garden, which sits behind the Grasslands Residence Halls.

Students gathered at the reopening, where they celebrated the rejuvenated garden with refreshments and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting with Anthony M. Sozzo, M.A., M.S.Ed., associate dean for student affairs and director of student financial planning and student activities.

In 2018, the SOM Class of 2018 dedicated the garden to the memory of Lisa Qian, a fourth-year medical student who passed away at the start of her last year of medical school at NYMC at the age of 24. She was posthumously awarded her medical degree at the 2018 commencement ceremony.

“I wrote to students asking for volunteers to clean up the space and more than 30 students replied within hours offering to bring the garden back to life. Lisa was an artist and nature lover who took great interest in the garden. Her memory lives on in the garden named after her,” Mr. Sozzo said.



Faculty Appointments *(June 18, 2021 through October 25, 2021)*

Welcome to our new faculty from across our affiliate sites.

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

Diana M. Bryk, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Pathology, Microbiology
and Immunology

Carol S. Woo, M.D.

Adjunct Instructor of Cell Biology and Anatomy

NYMC AFFILIATE: GREENWICH HOSPITAL

Khalil I. Hussein, M.D.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine

NYMC AFFILIATE: GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL

Chirag D. Badami, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery

William L. Davis, Jr., M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

NYMC AFFILIATE: LANDMARK MEDICAL CENTER

Sajid Siddiq, M.B.B.S.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

NYMC AFFILIATE: LENOX HILL HOSPITAL

Edward S. Goldberg, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

NYMC AFFILIATE: MID-HUDSON REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Susmitha Dhanyamraju, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

NYMC AFFILIATE: NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/ METROPOLITAN

Antony J. Arumairaj, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Anita Gul, M.B.B.S.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Gregory P. Harvey, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Ejaz S. Khan, M.B.B.S.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

Mark Young, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

NYMC AFFILIATE: RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Lynn B. Rapp, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

NYMC AFFILIATE: WESTMED MEDICAL GROUP

Noah B. Chinitz, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Christopher J. Mattern, M.D., M.B.A.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

NYMC AFFILIATE: WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

Ryan F. Bendl, D.O.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery

Aviva C. Berkowitz, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiation Medicine

Waseem S. Chaudhry, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Siri Drangsholt, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Urology and Obstetrics and Gynecology

David M. Garber, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology

Simon Hanft, M.D.

Associate Professor of Neurosurgery

Shalini Hargovind, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Alexander G. Hrycko, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Jacob A. Ouseph, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Stephan Mayer, M.D.

Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery

Grace Pinto-Britton, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences

Ammar Siddiqui, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

Amir Steinberg, M.D.

Associate Professor of Medicine

Bianca Stifani, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Angelica Sze, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

PRIMARY CARE PRECEPTOR

Erica K. German, M.D.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences

Lynne Hoffman, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences

SOM Faculty Named to New Leadership Roles



Joanna C. Pessolano, M.D. '81, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been appointed associate dean of student affairs in the SOM. Since 2008, she has served in a variety of leadership roles in the SOM, including director of the Women's and Gender Health theme in the M.D. Program and as advisory dean for the Wright House. Dr. Pessolano has also served as both site and clerkship director for the NYMC Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship for more than 12 years.

Previously, she was an associate program director for obstetrics and gynecology and director of continuing medical education at Richmond University Medical Center. Dr. Pessolano is a recipient of numerous teaching awards, including national recognition from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics and Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

She has received the NYMC Student Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring from the SOM every year since she began teaching at NYMC. In 2021, Dr. Pessolano was presented with the Robert Goldstein, M.D., Society of Teachers Award, which recognizes faculty who have received teaching awards at NYMC for 10 years or more. She has been inducted into the Iota Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha (AQA) medical honor society and is a recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Faculty Award, presented to faculty who best demonstrate the ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care, cultural sensitivity and respect for patients, their families and health care colleagues, as well as demonstrated clinical excellence.

Dominique Malacarne Pape, M.D., assistant professor in both the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Urology, has assumed the role of clerkship director for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship. Dr. Malacarne Pape was a highly sought-after candidate who was recruited successfully from New York University (NYU) in 2020. She is a fellowship-trained urogynecologist and female pelvic medicine surgeon, as well as a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



At NYU, Dr. Malacarne Pape served as the educational fellow to the residents all three years and was a fellow and attending member of the Resident Education Committee. She previously served as assistant director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship at NYU Langone, where she helped with the implementation of mentorship programs for medical students pursuing ob/gyn careers. She developed the faculty and resident curriculum "Teaching on the Go," which was used to educate faculty and staff about medical student education in both the inpatient and outpatient settings, served on the Education Committee for NYU Langone School of Medicine and helped to restructure the integration of basic sciences into the third- and fourth-year curriculum. Dr. Malacarne Pape received the Excellence in Teaching Award from APGO during her time as an attending at NYU. [Read more about Drs. Pessolano and Malacarne Pape.](#)

Vice Chancellor Mill Etienne Honored as Champion of Change in Crain's New York Inaugural Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Awards



Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H., vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, associate dean of student affairs and associate professor of neurology and of medicine, was honored as a Champion of Change by *Crain's New York* during their inaugural Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Awards on July 15. The [virtual awards ceremony](#) recognized those who are making great strides in creating a more equitable workplace. Dr. Etienne was honored in the emerging leaders category for promoting programs or initiatives advancing diversity and inclusion.

"Congratulations to Dr. Etienne on this well-deserved honor," said SOM Dean Jerry L. Nadler.

"Dr. Etienne is an advocate to help understand the reasons for and to address healthcare disparities in the U.S. Throughout his career he has espoused the tenets of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. Particularly with the resurgence of the racial and social justice movements in 2020, Dr. Etienne has emerged as a true leader both at NYMC and in the greater

community." [Read the full article on Dr. Etienne's award.](#)

SOM DEAN'S UPDATE

Dr. Martin Katzenstein Appointed Assistant Dean for Clinical Affiliations

Martin Katzenstein, M.D. '78, associate professor of pediatrics, has been appointed as assistant dean for clinical affiliations. In this new role, Dr. Katzenstein will assist with the development of new and established medical student clinical affiliate site rotations at the varied hospitals and ambulatory centers, physician practices and outpatient preceptor sites.

A NYMC graduate, Dr. Katzenstein has served on the faculty at NYMC since 1984. Dr. Katzenstein has chaired the College's Board of Advisors since 2014 after years of being a member of the Board, which is comprised of leading professional, communal, philanthropic and business leaders tasked with providing ongoing guidance, support and resources for the growth and development of NYMC. Dr. Katzenstein also serves as vice president for community affairs for Touro College and University System (TCUS) and as a member of Touro's Board of Governors.



"At NYMC, we take great pride in our robust network of affiliated hospitals and ambulatory care sites that offer our students an outstanding range of educational opportunities to further develop their clinical skills," said SOM Dean Jerry L. Nadler. "As a faculty member with the SOM for nearly 40 years, chairman of the Board of Advisors at NYMC and a NYMC graduate, Dr. Katzenstein's long-standing commitment to both the SOM and our students makes him an ideal candidate for this important role. Last year, Dr. Katzenstein played an integral role in securing the SOM's clinical affiliations with Westmed Medical Group and Refuah Health Center."

Dr. Katzenstein currently serves as chief of service and director of neonatology at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, New York, and as director of community alliances for Boston Children's Health Physicians, as well as an attending neonatologist at Westchester Medical Center. He previously served as chief of neonatology at Montefiore North, Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center and St. Agnes Medical Center.

SOM Class of 2025 Celebrates Milestone During White Coat Ceremony

Members of the SOM Class of 2025 gathered on campus on a beautiful summer afternoon, to celebrate an important milestone on their journey to becoming physicians when they officially donned their white coats for the first time during the White Coat Ceremony on August 1. Now a 25-year tradition at NYMC, the White Coat Ceremony began in 1993 at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons by Arnold P. Gold, M.D., a professor of clinical neurology and of clinical pediatrics, there, to emphasize the importance of professionalism and humanism in medicine at the beginning of medical school. [View the video of the NYMC White Coat Ceremony.](#)



"The white coat is a symbol of your welcome into the profession, your commitment to your future patients and the value of the human side of medicine," said Jane Ponterio, M.D. '81, senior associate dean for student affairs and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, who served as master of ceremonies for the event, which took place under a tent behind Sunshine Cottage. "Later, when your investor puts your white coat on you, they will literally be setting upon your shoulders the responsibility to serve your community to be lifelong learners and to follow the ethical and professional standards of the profession, not only on your journey to becoming a physician, but for the entire length of your career. This white coat should not be seen as a weight, but rather as a privilege to withhold and uphold."



During the ceremony, the 211 members of the class, who were chosen from a record-setting number of applications received by NYMC of more than 15,000, heard from several faculty and student speakers, who offered their advice to the class on how to excel in medical school and beyond as well as the importance of maintaining their humanism along the way. [Read more about the 2021 White Coat Ceremony](#)

Faculty and Student Publications and Accolades

This listing represents just a small sample of recent highlights.

Five members of the NYMC community were among the recipients of the 2021 Doctors of Distinction Awards sponsored by Westfair Communications. **Karen M. Murray, M.D. '99**, associate dean for SOM admissions and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and **Lauren S. Bader, M.D. '12, G.M.E. '15**, were honored with Caring for All Awards; **Elaine Healy, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award; **Sudhir Vaidya, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of family and community medicine, received a No Land Too Far Award; and the Promise for the Future Award was presented to **Mathias E. Palmer, M.D. '21**.

Hasan Ahmad, M.D., clinical associate professor of medicine, published "[Transcatheter Versus Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement in the United States \(From the Nationwide Readmission Database\)](#)" in the *American Journal of Cardiology*.

Abigail Cline, M.D., dermatology resident; **Carey Kim, M.D.**, dermatology resident; **Marcia Deitz, M.D.**, adjunct assistant professor of dermatology; **Bijan Safai, M.D., D.S.C.**, chair of Department of Dermatology and professor of dermatology and of pathology, microbiology and immunology; and **Shoshana Marmon, M.D., Ph.D.**, clinical assistant professor of dermatology; published "[Real-world direct-to-patient teledermatology in a low-income, elderly population](#)" in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Yaya Chu, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics; **Jeremy Rosenblum, M.D.**, assistant professor of pediatrics; and **Mitchell Cairo, M.D.**, professor of pediatrics, medicine, cell biology and anatomy, and of pathology, microbiology and immunology; published "[Combinatorial immunotherapy of N-803 \(IL-15 superagonist\) and dinutuximab with ex vivo expanded natural killer cells significantly enhances in vitro cytotoxicity against GD2\(+\) pediatric solid tumors and in vivo survival of xenografted immunodeficient NSG mice](#)" in the *Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer*.

Jan Geliebter, Ph.D., professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology and associate professor of otolaryngology; **Raj Tiwari, Ph.D.**, professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology and associate professor of otolaryngology; and **Xiu-Min Li, M.D., M.S.**, professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology; published "[Traditional Chinese medicine for food allergy and eczema](#)" in *Annals of Allergy Asthma & Immunology*.

Sophie Guenin, SOM Class of 2023; **Amythis Soltani, M.D.**, obstetrics and gynecology resident; **Cara Grimes, M.D., M.A.S.**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology; **Camille Clare, M.D., M.P.H.**, former associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Gizelka David-West**, former assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Julia Keltz, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Sharifa Menon, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Sean Tedjarati, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.**, clinical professor and chair of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and **Tana Pradhan, D.O.**, clinical associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, published "[Validation of prioritization scoring tools for triage of elective gynecologic surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)" in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Shoujin Hao, M.D., Ph.D., research assistant professor of pharmacology; and **Nicholas Ferreri, Ph.D. '84**, professor of pharmacology; published "[Induction of renal tumor necrosis factor- \$\alpha\$ and other autacoids and the beneficial effects of hypertonic saline in acute decompensated heart failure](#)" in the *American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology*.

Akos Koller, M.D., Ph.D., professor emeritus of physiology, published "[Molecular Pathomechanisms of Impaired Flow-Induced Constriction of Cerebral Arteries Following Traumatic Brain Injury: A Potential Impact on Cerebral Autoregulation](#)" in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.

Pamela Lucchesi, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology, published "[Decreased Substrate Stiffness Promotes a Hypofibrotic Phenotype in Cardiac Fibroblasts](#)" in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.

Patricia Ann Patrick, M.P.H. '03, Dr.PH. '10, adjunct associate professor of pediatrics; **Jennifer Canter, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of pediatrics; **Heather Brumberg, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of pediatrics; **Edmund F. LaGamma, M.D. '76**, professor of pediatrics and of biochemistry and molecular biology; and **Robin Altman, M.D.**, professor of pediatrics; published "[Having Skin in the Game A Case Study of Necrotizing Fasciitis in the Neonate Treated With Cultured Epidermal Autografts](#)" in *Advances in Neonatal Care*.

Eliana Scemes, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy, published "[Cholesterol-dependent mobility and activity of Pannexin1 channel](#)" in *Glia*.

Sonali Shah, SOM Class of 2024, and **Garret Weber, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of anesthesiology, published "[Got Oxygen? Hypoxia, Aging, and Its Contributions to POCD](#)" in *Anesthesia and Analgesia*.

Aalok Singh, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, published "[Incidence of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Among US Persons Infected With SARS-CoV-2](#)" in *Jama Network Open*.

Kathryn Spanknebel, M.D., senior associate dean of faculty affairs and associate professor of surgery, published "[Enriching surgical residency training through the liberal arts](#)" in the *American Journal of Surgery*.