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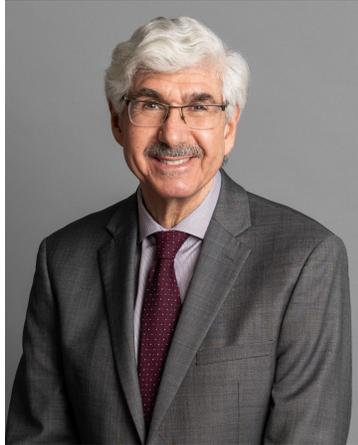
Dean's Update, June 2022

Jerry L. Nadler

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

As we conclude another successful academic year at NYMC, we have much to celebrate. In recent months, we have had many opportunities to do so in person once again. In March, we marked another successful Match Day for the School of Medicine (SOM) Class of 2022, who will begin the next step in their medical training at 105 institutions across 25 states. We recognized the academic excellence and humanism and compassion of our students, residents, faculty and alumni at the Alpha Omega Alpha and Gold Humanism Honor Society induction ceremonies and we celebrated the achievements of our newest M.D.s during the 163rd Commencement, when we welcomed Albert Bourla, D.V.M., Ph.D., chair and chief executive officer of Pfizer, as the commencement speaker.

Our administration and faculty have been recognized for their achievements as well. The chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine Mark Hurwitz, M.D., received the prestigious J. Eugene Robinson Award from the Society for Thermal Medicine. Tracey Milligan, M.D., chair of Department of Neurology, has been accepted into the highly competitive Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM) Program for Women. Lori Solomon, M.D. '99, M.P.H. '09, clinical associate professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and director of the Family Health Center; Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D., vice president for research and professor of pharmacology and of pathology, microbiology and immunology; and Gregory R. Veillette, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, were recognized as 2022 Healthcare Heroes by *Westchester Magazine*.

I am also pleased to share that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has granted continued accreditation to both our NYMC-sponsored Anesthesiology Residency Program at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan and our Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey. We have also been granted permission by ACGME to expand the faculty in the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program at St. Michael's, which will allow us to further the educational experience of our fellows. Our NYMC-sponsored residency programs also experienced a very successful match this year with all 111 positions offered in the match being filled.

We continue to work to further enhance our academic programs by recruiting highly qualified faculty and staff. In August, we will welcome Jennifer Salcedo, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., as our new designated institutional official (DIO). In July, LaShari Valentin, M.B.A., will join NYMC as assistant dean of academic affiliations and clinical programs. Leslie Halpern, D.D.S., M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., joins us this month as director of the NYMC-sponsored Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program at New York City Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan and Carla Hernandez-Goodman, M.S., was recently appointed as director of assessment and evaluation.

I hope this summer will give you the opportunity for some rest and rejuvenation and to enjoy time with family and friends. Thank you for all you do to support and advance the SOM. Be safe and well. We look forward to welcoming our new class and the continued success of our current students next academic year.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Nadler

Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., MACP, FAHA, FACE
Dean of the School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine and of Pharmacology

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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE
A MEMBER OF THE TOSCAO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
**Golf Tournament
and Reception**
Monday, June 27, 2022
Saint Andrew's Golf Club



NYMC will host its annual Golf Tournament and Reception on Monday, June 27 at St. Andrew's Golf Club. The event will honor **David Asprinio, M.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the [NYMC Clinical Skills and Simulation Center expansion](#). Non-golfers are invited to attend for dinner.

[Register here](#) or [sponsorships](#) are available.

Those unable to attend may support the event through a [donation](#).



Pfizer CEO Addresses Class of 2022 School of Medicine Graduates

The Class of 2022 celebrated receiving their medical degrees, after four years of hard work and tremendous resiliency in the face of a worldwide pandemic, on May 26, under the tent behind Sunshine Cottage, with friends and family in attendance, as commencement returned to an in-person setting for the first time in two years. The SOM welcomed Albert Bourla, D.V.M., Ph.D., chair and chief executive officer of Pfizer, as their keynote speaker. Dr. Bourla has received many accolades for his work leading Pfizer, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the creation of a vaccine in record time played a key role in controlling the pandemic and saving countless lives.



Graduation day opened with an awards ceremony at which SOM students were recognized with College and departmental awards for their academic excellence, service to the NYMC community and their compassion and humanism. Members of the Student Senate also paid tribute to faculty and administration for their teaching and mentoring of the Class of 2022 during their time at NYMC. The student speaker for the ceremony, Rebecca Nguyen, M.D., spoke about the importance of having people by one's side when progressing through medical school.

“Thank you for pulling us away from our computers when we desperately needed a break. Thank you for loving us,” said Dr. Nguyen. “Thank you for all the late-night phone calls when we broke down and said, ‘I don’t think I can do this’ and you said, ‘I know you can.’ This is a moment for you to say, ‘I told you so.’”

“I want to thank my classmates for making so many difficult experiences more bearable through your knowledge, your kindness and your memes,” she said. “I invite you to take a deep breath, look around you and take this moment for yourself.”

In addressing the graduates, keynote speaker Dr. Bourla described the monumental task of development an effective vaccine in a time span that would shatter previous records, and how it took an ambitious mindset to achieve it.

“You are fortunate to have found a school that allowed you to thrive in pursuit of your purpose. Now the world needs you to turn your purpose into action. The accelerating pace of innovation is cause for great hope, because it will result in improved health outcomes,” said Dr. Bourlas. “And each of you—whether you become a surgeon, a primary care physician, a researcher, a teacher or a clinician—you are on the front lines with an opportunity to have a significant impact on human lives.”

“At Pfizer, we referred to the development of our COVID-19 vaccine as a moonshot—a term shorthand for reaching big, for pursuing aspirational and difficult ventures. Today, I challenge you to pursue your own moonshot. To ask yourself how you can achieve something no one else has done before,” he said. “I encourage each one of you to aim high, higher than you can ever imagined. If at first you miss, don’t lower the target. Keep aiming high because when you hit, the reward will be great; for you and for the people that are dependent on you.” [Read the full story about the School of Medicine commencement.](#) View the [photos](#) and [video](#).

Dr. Jennifer Salcedo Named Designated Institutional Official



Jennifer Salcedo, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., FACOG, has been named designated institutional official (DIO) at NYMC. In her new role, which she will assume on August 1, Dr. Salcedo will maintain the institutional graduate medical education accreditation of the NYMC SOM by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) as well as the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), which includes overseeing 20 ACGME-accredited graduate medical education (GME) programs sponsored by the SOM and two CODA-accredited graduate dental programs.

Dr. Salcedo comes to NYMC from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), where she is associate professor and residency program director in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. At UTRGV, she worked to develop the new residency program and started an innovative border health track to address community needs in women’s health.

“We are so pleased to welcome Dr. Salcedo to NYMC as our new DIO,” said Jerry Nadler, M.D., dean of the SOM. “The DIO fills a critical role as an institutional leader committed to producing skilled physicians who are prepared to enter independent practice successfully. I am confident that Dr. Salcedo will be a great asset to the College and our graduate medical education programs.”

“I’m excited to begin working with colleagues at NYMC to well-equip residents and fellows to meet the unique health care needs of their communities and serve as leaders in our complex health care system,” said Dr. Salcedo.

Thanks are extended to John Pellicone, M.D., associate dean for medical education and assistant professor of medicine in the SOM and chief medical officer at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan, for chairing the search committee for this important role.

Leslie Halpern, D.D.S., M.D. '93, Ph.D., M.P.H., Joins NYMC as Program

Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program

After a nationwide search, **Leslie Halpern, D.D.S., M.D. '93, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, has joined NYMC as program director of the NYMC-sponsored Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program at New York City Health and Hospitals/ Metropolitan (MET). Dr. Halpern will also serve as section chief of oral and maxillofacial surgery at MET and as an attending clinician/educator at Westchester Medical Center.



Holding multiple master's and doctoral degrees, Dr. Halpern brings a unique and robust formal educational background to her new roles, including a D.D.S. from New York University, an M.D. from NYMC and an M.P.H. from Harvard University. After her residency training, Dr. Halpern attended several fellowships in oral and maxillofacial surgery and held a faculty appointment at Harvard's School of Dental Medicine. Most recently, she served as professor and section head of oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Utah School of Dentistry. Dr. Halpern is a Diplomat of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the National Board of Medical Examiners.

During her career, Dr. Halpern has received and/or collaborated on many grant-funded projects. She has presented at national, state and international conferences. Her contributions to the oral and maxillofacial literature include many first author attributions, including manuscripts, book sections and chapters.

LaShari Valentin, M.B.A., Appointed Assistant Dean of Academic Affiliations and Clinical Programs



LaShari Valentin, M.B.A., will join NYMC as assistant dean of academic affiliations and clinical programs on July 1. In this newly created role, Ms. Valentin will be responsible for coordinating and managing SOM's many affiliated clinical sites to ensure each provides the optimal clinical learning environment for NYMC's students, residents and fellows. Ms. Valentin joins NYMC from Montefiore Medical Center, where she served as director of postgraduate education. She previously served as director of strategic planning/residency administrator at Hackensack University Medical Center and held various positions at the Institute for Family Health/Mount Sinai Hospital, Jamaica Hospital Medical Center and University Physician's of Brooklyn. She holds an M.B.A. from Metropolitan College of New York and is a Ph.D. candidate in health sciences at Seton Hall University.

Alpha Omega Alpha Iota Chapter Recognizes Academic Excellence at 2022 Induction Ceremony



On April 25, NYMC students, residents, faculty and alumni were recognized for their academic excellence with induction into the national medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), during a special ceremony held in Skyline Dining Room, while proud family members looked on. An annual tradition at the College since 1957, this year marked the 66th induction ceremony by the NYMC Iota Chapter of AOA. Lawrence Brandt, M.D., chief emeritus of gastroenterology at Montefiore Medical Center and professor of medicine and surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the

Bronx, delivered this year's visiting professor address.

During his talk, Dr. Brandt traced his long career that has spanned five decades, describing actual life experiences and medical cases he had handled as a physician to illustrate important lessons he has learned. "I began my career focused on disease, but over time, I evolved to recognize that while disease and pathophysiology were important, the patient and how that patient was affected by that disease was more important," he said. "I'm certain I am a much better physician now because of my desire to know the person with the disease and not just the disease."

A particularly poignant moment in the induction ceremony was the post-humous award to family medicine preceptor Richard Beira, M.D., who was remembered fondly by Lori Solomon, M.D., M.P.H., chair and clinical associate professor of family and community medicine, and Samuel DeSantis, School of Medicine Class of 2022. [Read the full story on Alpha Omega Alpha Induction Ceremony and view list of inductees.](#)

SOM Celebrates Gold Humanism Honor Society Class of 2023 Induction



It was an emotional and celebratory evening for the newest members of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) on April 28, when more than 30 students were inducted into the society for their humanistic approach to their clinical years, while faculty were recognized for their humanistic efforts. Families and friends joined the inductees at 19 Skyline Drive to celebrate the occasion.

Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., MACP, FAHA, FACE, dean of the SOM and professor of medicine and pharmacology, presented opening remarks, explaining the origin of the GHHS which was founded by Arnold P. Gold, M.D., who made it a focal point to treat patients with empathy and respect. [Read the full story on the Gold Humanism Honor Society Induction.](#)

Chair of Radiation Medicine Mark D. Hurwitz, M.D., Receives Prestigious Award from Society for Thermal Medicine

Mark D. Hurwitz, M.D., chair and professor of radiation medicine at NYMC and director of radiation medicine at Westchester Medical Center (WMC) has been chosen as the 2022 recipient of the J. Eugene Robinson Award by the Society for Thermal Medicine in recognition of his outstanding contributions to hyperthermic oncology. The J. Eugene Robinson Award is the highest and most prestigious award bestowed by the Society. Dr. Hurwitz received the award on May 1 during the Society's annual meeting, when he also presented the Robinson Lecture: "Confluence of a Career and A Cancer Treatment Modality: Navigating Hyperthermia to Cancer Patients in Need."

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be recognized by my peers with



the Robinson award," said Dr. Hurwitz. "I look forward to continuing, together with my colleagues at NYMC, research in thermal oncology towards the goal of transforming cancer care."

Over the course of his career, Dr. Hurwitz has played a key role in overseeing the clinical advancements of both hyperthermia and thermal ablation, participating in and leading numerous clinic studies. He has published more than 100 research journal publications, books and chapters and spoken around the globe. His most recent research at NYMC and WMC is focused on novel ways of delivering simultaneous hyperthermia and radiation for additional anti-tumor effects and using heat to enhance immunotherapy.

Chair of Neurology Tracey A. Milligan, M.D., Accepted into Highly Competitive Executive Leadership Fellowship Program

Congratulations to **Tracey A. Milligan, M.D.**, chair and professor of neurology, for being accepted as a 2022-2023 fellow in the highly competitive Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM) Program for Women at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. ELAM® is the only longitudinal program in North America dedicated to preparing women for senior leadership roles in schools of medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy. The prestigious program is dedicated to developing the professional and personal skills required to lead and manage in today's complex healthcare environment, with special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions.



"To accommodate a very strong pool of applicants, we have accepted 72 fellows into the 2022-23 class of ELAM," says Nancy D. Spector, MD, Executive Director of ELAM. "The application pool for this class was the largest ever, with a 25 percent increase over 2021-2022," she added. "The women are exceptional leaders who are capable of making critical systemic change in their institutions. The need for the highest quality leaders in academic health care has never been greater, and we are doing everything we can to help meet that need by providing outstanding and innovative leadership training for women."

Dr. Milligan was nominated for the program by SOM Dean Dr. Jerry Nadler. "I was thrilled to receive this great news! I appreciate all the support from Drs. Nadler, Halperin and Garrick and look forward to implementing what I learn at NYMC and WMC," said Dr. Milligan.

**School of Medicine Faculty Recognized for Excellence During
Second Annual Dean's Faculty Awards**



SOM faculty were honored for excellence in teaching, mentoring, research and institutional service during the Second Annual Dean's Faculty Awards Ceremony on March 31. "It is so important that we take this time to recognize the good things and we don't do that enough. This is just one way for us to say thank you to the faculty who are performing key missions at NYMC in such a wonderful way," said Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., SOM dean.

In recognition of his sustained and significant achievements in his field and contributions to NYMC, Patric Stanton, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy and of medicine, received the Outstanding Achievement Award. **Read the full story on Dean's Faculty Awards and view list of award recipients.**

Faculty Members Recognized as Healthcare Heroes by Westchester Magazine

Three NYMC faculty members were among 12 "2022 Healthcare Heroes" selected by [Westchester Magazine](#) for their valiant and dedicated efforts to health care in Westchester and beyond. Lori Solomon, M.D. '99, M.P.H. '09, Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D., and Gregory R. Veillette, M.D., were honored during the Ninth Annual Healthcare Heroes luncheon on May 12, where they were celebrated for their vital work. Drs. Solomon, Amar and Veillette were all highlighted in the May 2022 issue of *Westchester Magazine* along with the other awardees, sharing insight into what drove them to go above and beyond. [Read the full story on NYMC's 2022 Healthcare Heroes.](#)



SOM Graduate Allison Zhong Receives American Academy of Neurology Award

Allison Zhong, M.D. '22, was chosen as the recipient of this year's American Academy of Neurology's Medical School Prize for Excellence, which is given to a graduating medical student who has promising career potential in neurology as seen by their institution's faculty and residents.

"I am thrilled and humbled to be able to receive this award, although it really belongs to the incredible network of mentors I have found at NYMC, especially within the Department of Neurology. They have provided countless students with training not only in medicine but also in life, and



those lessons will undoubtedly continue to guide us throughout our careers,” said Dr. Zhong.

While at NYMC, Dr. Zhong has demonstrated an outstanding level of academic excellence and is one of only nine students in her class simultaneously nominated for the Gold Humanism Honor Society and for the Alpha Omega Alpha national medical honor society. She was a co-president of the Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) chapter and serves as a representative on the NYMC Student Wellness Committee. She also has four peer-reviewed publications and has presented nationally on several occasions.

Faculty Appointments *(February 16, 2022 through June 3, 2022)*

Welcome to our new faculty from across our affiliate sites.

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

Debbie Isabella, M.T.

Instructor of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology

Kenichi Miyazaki, Ph.D.

Instructor of Physiology

Akhila Puttaswamy, M.B.B.S.

Clinical Assistant Professor and Cell Biology and Anatomy

Michael Schoolman, M.D.

Instructor of Medicine and Cell Biology and Anatomy

Lois Zentmaier, M.S.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology

GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL

Rajiv Singh, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine

LANDMARK MEDICAL CENTER

Motasem Al-Yacoub, M.D.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Neurology

Fadi Bilbeisi, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Jenna Iannuccilli, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Avanish Mehta, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Michael Monsour, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Bruce Novis, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

Andrew Bauerschmidt, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery

Lauren Brown-Brandel

Instructor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Daniel Cho, M.D.

Professor of Medicine

Anna Cooper, M.D., M.P.H.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Pauline Hackney-Nanjari, M.S.

Instructor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Martin Keltz, M.D.

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Merritt Kinon, M.D.

Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Orthopaedic Surgery

Jennifer Krajewski, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine

Jordan Kurtz, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Sravanthi Lavu, M.B.B.S.

Instructor of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology

Anu Mallapaty, D.O.

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Paul Mandaro, M.D.

Instructor of Pediatrics

Cameron Marshall, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

Vignesh Ponnusamy, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Faizul Suhail, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/ METROPOLITAN

Kathy Aligene, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Physical and
Rehabilitation Medicine

Juan Cosico, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

MIDHUDSON REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Franklin Chiao, M.D.
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology

RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Vaithlingam Arulthasan, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Suzy Bibawy, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Sonia Chokshi, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Azza Elamam, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Sean Galligan, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Peter Gottlieb, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Angela Grigos, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Ambreen Khalil, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Valentine Obi, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Kavan Patel, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Francesco Rotatori, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Jessie Saverimuttu, M.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Sameh Naim, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology

Rolla Nuoman, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Harshadkumar Patel, M.B.B.S.
Instructor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Isabel Pesola, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

Timothy Ryntz, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and
Gynecology

Meenakshi Singh, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Kathryn Snyder, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Abigail Trager, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Daniel Ventarola, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery

Lakshmisree Vemulakonda, M.B.B.S.
Instructor of Pathology, Microbiology and
Immunology

PRIMARY CARE PRECEPTOR

Richard Lee, D.O.
Clinical Assistant Professor Family and Community
Medicine

SOM Welcomes New Director of Assessment and Evaluation

Carla Hernandez-Goodman, M.S., has joined the SOM as director of assessment and evaluation. In her new role, Ms. Hernandez-



Goodman will develop and oversee data-driven measures to assess and evaluate all aspects of the SOM undergraduate medical education curriculum.

Ms. Hernandez-Goodman comes to NYMC from St. John's University in Queens, New York, where she held various roles, including most recently the role of assistant director of academic assessment since 2018. Previously, she worked at ExamSoft and at Stony Brook University. She holds a master's degree in school counseling from Long Island University.

Alexandra Schieber, D.O., Named SOM Curriculum Phase Two Director

Alexandra Schieber, D.O., assistant professor of family and community medicine, has been named as phase two director for the newly redesigned SOM Curriculum. The new curriculum will be divided into three phases over four years. Dr. Schieber will oversee the curriculum, structure and assessment of phase two (clinical) of the M.D. program. Dr. Schieber joined NYMC last year as family medicine clerkship director for the Department of Family and Community Medicine and as an academic faculty physician at the NYMC Family Health Center on Skyline Drive. She came to the College from Temple University in Philadelphia, where she was an attending physician and assistant professor of family and community medicine. She holds a doctoral degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.



School of Medicine Class of 2022 Gathers in Person to Celebrate Match Day



Members of the SOM Class of 2022 had the opportunity to celebrate Match Day in person this year – for the first time since the pandemic began – as they gathered in the radiant sunshine outside the Medical Education Center (MEC) on March 18 to learn where they were matched to medical residency programs. The results of the National Resident Matching Program are disclosed simultaneously at medical schools around the country.

The Class of 2022 will go on to train in 25 states at 105 different institutions, including several of NYMC's local affiliate hospitals – Westchester Medical Center, NYC Health +

Hospitals/Metropolitan, NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln, Greenwich Hospital, Lenox Hill Hospital, Richmond University Medical Center and Landmark Medical Center – as well as at many top tier, research-intensive, academic medical centers across the country, including two hospitals of the Harvard Medical School System (Massachusetts General and Beth Israel-Deaconess), Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Brown, Dartmouth, Emory, Mount Sinai, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Weil Cornell, New York University, Tufts, UCLA and Yale. [Read the full story on Match Day 2022.](#)

Convocation of Thanks Offers Opportunity for NYMC Students to

Honor First Patients



For the 34th time at NYMC, the annual Convocation of Thanks offered an opportunity for first year medical students and speech-pathology students to express their appreciation to the families of the loved ones whose bodies were graciously donated to NYMC for medical research. Members of the SOM Class of 2024 and the School of Health Science and Practice Speech-Language Pathology Class of 2023 chose a variety of mediums – reflection, song, music and art – to honor their “first patients” during the Convocation, which was held in both Nevins Auditorium and virtually on April 29.

“Your loved ones worked with students who are becoming physicians, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, dentists and with hospital residents who are already physicians and continuing in their education. Collectively, they worked with close to 400 students, and since each of those 400 students is going to go on to work with hundreds or thousands of patients, that is hundreds of thousands of patients whose lives have been improved by the gift that you gave us,” said Roger Bender, M.P.H., director of the NYMC Body Bequeathal Program and instructor of cell biology and anatomy. [Read the full story on Convocation of Thanks](#) .

Medicine in the Age of COVID-19 Subject of Annual NYMedTalks Event



The very timely topic of medicine in the age of COVID-19 was the focus of the annual NYMedTalks event held on March 30. During the daylong virtual event, which is run entirely by SOM students, participants heard from a variety of healthcare leaders from across the country on how medicine evolved during the COVID-19 pandemic and innovations made to expand healthcare delivery and improve health outcomes in this new global era.

“Since this year’s conference was the first one held since life began to return to some semblance of normalcy and familiarity for many around the world, we wanted to pay tribute to how far medicine and medical practice have come in the past two years,” said Ankita Jain,

SOM Class of 2025, who organized the conference, along with Doria Weiss, Eseiwi Aifuwa, Harry Haran and Miriam Katz, also members of the SOM Class of 2025. “We chose to invite guest speakers whose work was either impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic or whose work has helped the medical community better deliver healthcare to patients through lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.” [Read the full story on NYMedTalks event](#).

Faculty and Student Publications and Accolades

Heepeel Chang, M.D., clinical assistant professor of surgery, published **“Outcomes of Transfemoral Carotid Artery Stenting and Transcarotid Artery Revascularization for Restenosis after Prior Ipsilateral Carotid Endarterectomy”** in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*.

Kevin Clare, SOM Class of 2023; **Eric Feldstein, M.D. '21**; **Christeena Kurian, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of neurology; **Andrew Bauerschmidt, M.D.**, assistant professor of neurology; **Gurmeen Kaur, M.D.**, assistant professor of neurology; **Justin Santarelli, M.D.**, assistant professor of

neurosurgery; **Stephan Mayer, M.D.**, professor of neurology; **Chirag Gandhi, M.D.**, professor and chair of Department of Neurosurgery, professor of neurology and radiology; and **Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D.**, associate professor of neurology, neurosurgery and of radiology, published **“Safety and Efficacy of a Novel Robotic Transcranial Doppler System in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage”** in *Scientific Reports*.

Cara Grimes, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology; **Madison Kasoff**, SOM Class of 2023; and **Dominique Malacarne Pape, M.D.**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology, published **“Assessment of Level of Fear in Adult Patients Undergoing Elective Urogynecologic and Gynecologic Procedures and Surgeries During the COVID-19 Pandemic Using the Validated Surgical Fear Questionnaire”** in *Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery*.

Sakib Hossain, GSBMS student; **Jonathan Pascale**, GSBMS student; **Elizabeth Villegas**, GSBMS student; **Victor Garcia, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of pharmacology; and **Michal Schwartzman, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of Department of Pharmacology, professor of medicine and associate professor of otolaryngology, published **“Blockade of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid receptor lowers blood pressure and alters vascular function in mice with smooth muscle-specific overexpression of CYP4A12-20-HETE synthase”** in the *Journal of Hypertension*.

Lior Levy, SOM Class of 2023; **Victor Garcia, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of pharmacology; and **Nader Abraham, Ph.D.**, professor of medicine and of pharmacology, published **“Heme-oxygenase and lipid mediators in obesity and associated cardiometabolic diseases: Therapeutic implications”** in *Pharmacology & Therapeutics*.

Xiu-Min Li, M.D., M.S., professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology, published **“Soluble Tetraaminophthalocyanines Indium Functionalized Graphene Platforms for Rapid and Ultra-Sensitive Determination of Rutin in Tartary Buckwheat Tea”** in *Food Control*.

Suguru Ohira, M.D., Ph.D., clinical assistant professor of surgery; **Ramin Malekan, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of surgery; **Masashi Kai, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of surgery; **Joshua Goldberg, M.D.**, assistant professor of surgery; **Philip Spencer, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of surgery; **Steven Lansman, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor and interim chair of Department of Surgery; and **David Spielvogel, M.D.**, professor of surgery, published **“Reoperative Total Arch Repair Using a Trifurcated Graft and Selective Antegrade Cerebral Perfusion”** in *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.

Bracha Pollack, SOM Class of 2024; **Patrick Popiel, M.D.**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology; **Elizabeth Drugge, Ph.D.**, adjunct professor of pharmacology; **Moses Bibi**, SOM Class of 2024; **Rivka Friedman**, SOM Class of 2024; **Leael Alishahian**, SOM Class of 2024; **Adrienne Bielawski**, SOM Class of 2024; **Ashley Sacks**, SOM Class of 2024; **Kira Lebron**, SOM Class of 2024; **Dena Phillips**, SOM Class of 2024; **Sara Rubino**, SOM Class of 2024; **Rida Khan**, SOM Class of 2024; **Eesha Khan**, SOM Class of 2024; **Merit Gorgy**, SOM Class of 2024; and **Cara Grimes, M.D.**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology, published **“Impact of permanent versus absorbable suture in vaginal suspension surgery for apical pelvic organ prolapse”** in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Neil Schluger, M.D., professor and chair of Department of Medicine; and **Allen Dozor, M.D.**, professor of pediatrics, published **“Rethinking the Race Adjustment in Pulmonary Function Testing”** in *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*.

Kathryn Spanknebel, M.D., associate professor of surgery, published **“Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Surgical Trainee Education and Well-Being Spring 2020-Winter 2020: A Path Forward”** in the *American Journal of Surgery*.

Gary Wormser, M.D., professor of medicine, pharmacology and of pathology, microbiology and immunology, published **“Response to Determination of Oral Doxycycline Efficacy for Clearance of Borrelia burgdorferi Infection”** in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*.



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