



InTouch

a publication for the New York Medical College community

Week of March 11, 2024



NEWS



Dr. Kenneth Knapp Named Chair of Department of Public Health

Kenneth Knapp, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health, was appointed the chair of the Department of Public Health after serving as the interim chair since June 2023. He will continue to be responsible for the oversight of the department in this new capacity. He joined NYMC in 2011 as a research scholar with the Center for Long-Term Care in SHSP's Institute of Public Health, which he now directs. A full-time

faculty member since 2013, Dr. Knapp was appointed as the director of the Dr.P.H. program in 2021.

"Dr. Kenneth Knapp takes the helm of our public health program at an exciting time," said Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of SHSP. "Thanks to his insight and sensitivities to the needs of our masters and doctoral students, we now offer a spectrum of academic options that focus on the career goals and priorities they hold most dear."

Dr. Mitchell Cairo Secures \$2.6M FDA Grant for Infant CMV Infection Research

Mitchell Cairo, M.D., professor of pediatrics, cell biology and anatomy, medicine, and of pathology, microbiology, and immunology, has received a \$2.6 million grant from the Food and Drug Administration to explore a novel and innovative treatment for babies born with cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection – the most common infectious cause of birth defects in



the United States. "Moderate to severe congenital CMV infection in infants results in significant developmental changes and hearing loss," says Dr. Cairo. "The current treatment for CMV is the oral antibiotic (anti-viral) drug valganciclovir. Unfortunately, this drug alone is incapable of both eliminating CMV infection and preventing severe neurodevelopmental disabilities." This grant will allow Dr. Cairo and his research team to investigate the safety and effectiveness

of combining valganciclovir with CMV memory T-cells from maternal donors to improve outcomes for infants with moderate to severe congenital CMV infection.



Department of Radiation Medicine Enrolls First Patient in Nation in Prostate Cancer Clinical Trial

The Department of Radiation Medicine demonstrated the success of its research program by being the first in the nation to enroll a patient in a phase III clinical trial for high-risk prostate cancer. The NCI Cooperative Group trial through NRG Oncology, referred to as the "High Five" trial, randomizes patients with high-risk,

clinically localized prostate cancer to either traditional radiation therapy (approximately 20 treatments over several weeks) or stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) delivered in only five treatments over two weeks by giving a higher dose each treatment.

"SBRT has proven to be an effective and safe treatment for men with lower-risk prostate cancer," said **Mark Hurwitz, M.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine. "This study will help determine if this short precise regimen can be routinely used for the treatment of higher-risk patients. We are the first center in the country to enroll a patient, which demonstrates the well-oiled machine our clinical trials program is regarding bringing leading-edge trials to our cancer patients."

NYMC and Regeneron Debut Neighborhood Science Seminar Series

NYMC and Regeneron are proud to announce the launch of the Neighborhood Science Seminar Series on Wednesday, March 20 at noon at BioInc@NYMC in 7 Dana Road. The inaugural session of the seminar series will showcase **Aarti Sharma, Ph.D.**, associate director of Motor Neuron Diseases at Regeneron.



[Read more >](#)
[Register >](#)

NYMC Annual Days of Giving Set for March 26 and 27

NYMC will host its annual "Days of Giving" fundraising campaign to raise funds for student scholarships in the GSBMS, SOM, and SHSP. You can contribute by making your donation in advance or by participating on March 26 and 27.

[Give Today >](#)



LCME Element of the Week

In preparation for the SOM's April 2024 LCME accreditation visit, in the upcoming weeks, we will be featuring the most-cited elements, based on recent data from the LCME and how this is addressed at NYMC. This week's element is Financial Aid/Debt Management Counseling/Student Educational Debt.

[Read more >](#)



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



The Office of Academic Excellence Elevates Student Achievement

John Blicharz, Ph.D., director of the Office of Academic Excellence, provides insight into his the newly structured office, which encompasses the Division of Student Academic Support and the Division of Student Accommodations and Accessibility.

[Read more >](#)

[View the video >](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Dr.P.H. Candidate Advocates for Long Term Care Through the Media

Imran Ali, M.D., M.S. '06, M.P.H '16, has accomplished his goal of becoming a medical journalist of almost 20 years, with positions at CNN, ABC News, and many others.

[Read more >](#)



ACCOLADES



Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H., left, vice chancellor of diversity and inclusion, associate dean of SOM student affairs, and associate professor of neurology and of medicine, received a proclamation in honor of Black History Month from **Congressman Mike Lawler**, New York 174th Congressional District, at a ceremony on February 20, at Westchester Community College.

Tai M. Lee Jr., NRP, EMT-T, CIC/RF, MEP, assistant director of the Center for Disaster Medicine, was invited to teach at the Westchester County Police Academy during the week of March 4. He taught future police officers during their emergency medical services week of training that covered CPR, first aid, and tactical emergency casualty care, as well as how to assist EMS in patient care and transport.



Sabrina Zeller, M.D., PGY-4 resident in the Department of Neurosurgery, received the Charles Kuntz Scholar Award and the Fessler Award for her research that was accepted for presentation at the annual American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves Meeting (Spine Summit 2024) in Las Vegas, Nevada, on February 21 – 24. Her presentation was entitled, "Stem cell therapy in conjunction with curcumin and epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) synergistically enhances recovery from spinal cord injury by altering signaling pathways of mTOR and NF- κ B." This work was done under the mentorship of Meena Jhanwar-Uniyal, Ph.D., research associate professor of neurosurgery.



DID YOU KNOW

March is Social Work Month. Social workers have helped people of all backgrounds address their own needs through psychosocial services and advocacy. At NYMC, we are proud to have four licensed clinical social workers and two Masters of Social Work student interns.

By the year 2030, there will be more than 782,00 social workers in the United States, which makes social work one of the fastest growing professions in the country.



POLICIES

Updates

- [Health Benefits for Regular Part-Time Employees](#)

From the Office of Human Resources, February 28, 2024

- [Change of Academic Program](#)
- [Courses Repeatable for Credit in the SHSP](#)
- [Credit Hour Definitions Policy](#)
- [Policy on Incomplete and In Progress Grades in SHSP](#)
- [Policy on Providing Course Feedback to Students in SHSP](#)
- [Repeating a Core or Concentration Course in the SHSP](#)
- [Replacing Missed Classes](#)
- [Conditional Admission](#)

From the School of Health Sciences and Practice, February 28, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS



Tell Us What You Think

InTouch strives to bring you the latest news and developments in the NYMC community. In an ongoing effort to ensure our readers stay well informed, we seek your feedback to help us evaluate and improve our publication. Please take a moment to [complete a brief survey](#) by April 1.

Match Day

Friday, March 15, 2024

SOM Class of 2024 celebrates taking the next step in their medical training.



NYMC and Regeneron Debut Neighborhood Science Seminar Series

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
12:00 p.m. • 7 Dana Road, Biolnc@NYMC Lounge

[RSVP >](#)



NYMC Annual Golf Tournament and Reception

Monday, June 17, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.
Saint Andrew's Golf Club
Hastings-on-Hudson, New York

Sponsored by the NYMC Board of Advisors, the annual golf tournament is a fundraiser to benefit student scholarships and other initiatives at NYMC.

[RSVP >](#)

EVENTS ON THE NYMC CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday, March 11	12:15 p.m.	Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Grand Rounds
Tuesday, March 12	5:00 p.m.	SOM Grand Rounds
	6:00 p.m.	GSBMS Lander College of Arts and Science Careers in Health Professions
	6:00 p.m.	Office of Student Mental Health and Wellness Student Meditation
Wednesday, March 13	8:00 a.m.	Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds

	9:00 a.m.	Division of Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds
	12:00 p.m.	Department of Medicine Grand Rounds
	12:00 p.m.	Office of Student Mental Health and Wellness Together in Wellness: An Immersive Wellness Experience
Thursday, March 14	12:00 p.m.	Office of Student Mental Health and Wellness Pet the Stress Away
	5:30 p.m.	Office of Student Mental Health and Wellness Student Yoga Class
Friday, March 15	11:30 a.m.	NYMC SOM Class of 2024 Match Day
	12:00 p.m.	Office of Student Mental Health and Wellness Walk and Talk Group

Add an event to the NYMC calendar here.

[Visit nymc.edu/calendar](https://nymc.edu/calendar) to view all events.

IN THE NEWS

Faculty News

[The Best Cloth Diapers, According To Parents Who've Used Them](#)

Forbes - 3/3/24

Shoshana Marmon, M.D., Ph.D., clinical assistant professor of dermatology

[Coping Tips for DME-Related Vision Loss](#)

Health Central - 2/20/24

Anne S. Negrin, M.D., clinical assistant professor ophthalmology

[Medical experts recommend to still take precautions following CDC's revised COVID isolation guidelines](#)

News 12 - 3/1/24

Donald S. Chen, M.D., assistant professor of medicine

[The Future of Wet AMD Treatments](#)

Health Central - 2/20/24

Anne S. Negrin, M.D., clinical assistant professor ophthalmology

Affiliate News

["My Disability Roadmap" Sparks Conversations About Inclusivity](#)

Westchester Magazine 914 Inc. - 2/25/24

Susan Fox, M.Ed., M.A., Ph.D., WHID CEO and president, associate professor of public health, and director of the Center on Disability and Health

Student News

[New York Medical College Student Nadia Briones Sings a New Tune in Medicine](#)

River Journal - 3/7/24

Nadia Briones, SOM Class of 2027

General News

[12 Best DPT/MPH Dual Degree Programs – 2024](#)

NursingProcess.org

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New York Medical College | 40 Sunshine Cottage Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

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