

RUMC Dedicates Psychiatric Unit in Honor of Longtime Psychiatrist



Chol J. Lee, MD

On August 26, with family, friends, and former colleagues present, the Chol J. Lee, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit was officially dedicated. The 10-bed inpatient unit was dedicated to the hospital's former director of Inpatient Psychiatry, who passed away in 2019.



Dr. Lee's daughters Helen, Mimi, and Doris with their mom, Young.

Dr. Lee served Staten Island families for his entire 32-year career from, 1971 to 2003, as a child and adult psychiatrist. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Dr. Lee earned his medical degree from Yonsei University, completed his internship and psychiatry residency training at Medfield State Hospital and his child psychiatry fellowship at New York University. On hand for the dedication were members of his family, including his wife of 56 years, Young; daughters Helen, Mimi, and Doris; and grandson, Leon.

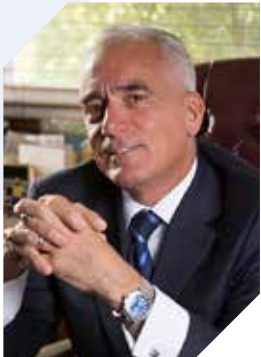
Throughout his career, Dr. Lee was recognized for his skills, compassion, and dedication to his patients. He was a member of many local, regional, and national organizations, including the Staten Island Mental Health Committee, the Minority Advisory Council for the Office of Mental Health for the State of New York, and the Asian American Mental Health Task Force for the National Institute of Mental Health.



Longtime colleague of Dr. Lee and RUMC Trustee, Pankaj Patel, MD, shared stories of his friend.

Dr. Lee also served as the president of the Korean American Medical Association (KAMA) of Greater New York, and eventually was named president of the National KAMA. He was awarded America's Top Psychiatrist by the American Psychiatric Association in 2006.

From the President & CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to three new members of our Board of Trustees. Their terms begin in August and each brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will help their fellow trustees guide our hospital and assist the leadership team in approving and optimizing strategic investments to further position our independent hospital as one of the leaders in healthcare services for not just Staten Island, but the New York Metropolitan Area:



Ana Veronica Mendez, MD, is board certified in pediatrics and internal medicine. She received her medical degree in 1996 from Albany Medical College. She obtained her master's degree in public health and health care management from The Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in 2015. She has worked with the community in Staten Island for nearly 30 years. Dr. Mendez is currently the Chief of Ambulatory Pediatrics and a faculty member in the Pediatrics Department here at RUMC. She is also the President of the Richmond County Medical Society. For the last decade Dr. Mendez has also currently worked closely with multiple community-based organizations to address social determinants of health, equity initiatives, and healthcare access.



Frank Scafuri, MD, moved to Staten Island when he was only five years old. In 1987, at only fifteen years of age, Dr. Scafuri began working at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center, now RUMC, in the microbiology lab. After graduating from St. Peter's College in 1994 with a degree in pre-med, Dr. Scafuri attended medical school at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating in 1999. In 2000, he completed his internship at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn. In 2001, Dr. Scafuri returned to St. Vincent's to complete his last two years of residency. Finally, in 2004, he completed his fellowship in infectious diseases at New

York Medical College at St. Vincent's Medical Center of New York in Jamaica, Queens. When Dr. Scafuri's fellowship was completed, he returned to St. Vincent's on Staten Island and also opened his own private practice. Dr. Scafuri is an honorary police surgeon for infectious diseases for the New York City Police Department; a community preceptor for medical and nurse practitioner students; and the medical director for the Physician Assistant Program at Wagner College.



Allen Brown is a well-respected senior technology executive with extensive experience in the financial services sector. He also works with global leaders in the hedge fund, capital markets, and asset management space. He is currently serving as the head of Technology Infrastructure at MUFG Securities Americas, Inc., and is responsible for budget, organizational and program development. While providing technical analysis to board members and senior leadership, he is also responsible for working with their legal counsel in contract negotiations, reviewing statements of work, and being a contributor to policy development and risk management alongside a team of chief compliance officers.

As we celebrate the addition of these three new trustees, we are at the same time bidding a fond farewell to long-time Trustee John Vincent Scalia, Sr., who is retiring from the Board after 13 years of service. John has been instrumental in so many projects, causes, and initiatives here at RUMC. John leaves a lasting legacy and we are forever grateful to him for his support, friendship, and love of our hospital. Thank you John!

I hope you enjoy what remains of the summer. I wish each of you and your families continued health and happiness.
Remember the Power of One – You Make A Difference!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

"I went for an ambulatory procedure with Dr. Frank J. Lacqua and I have never felt so welcomed, taken care of and comfortable. The whole staff from beginning to end were very professional as well as personable and kind hearted. If I were to mention a few names I might add Amelia Piccione and Nurse Anesha were extremely caring and went above and beyond. They were very thorough in giving me instructions and addressing any concerns I had with respect to my after-care when leaving.

The hospital, including the front desk and security, should be awarded a gold medal. From the bottom of my heart THANK YOU all so much for showing me so much true love and great pride in your working positions!"

— M.L.

"I love this hospital. I gave birth to all my children here. The staff are very nice and on point. I feel safe, it's clean and spacious."

— D.P.

"Dr. Philip Otterbeck is the consummate professional. He's extremely knowledgeable, professional, courteous and kind. An absolute pleasure to deal with."

— L.L.

RUMC to Receive Part of \$12M from New York State to Treat Opioid Addiction

RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, shares how RUMC will utilize state funds for opioid addiction services while New York State Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo (right) and New York State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton (left) look on.

Richmond University Medical Center is one of eight community organizations that will receive funds as part of a \$12 million lawsuit secured through a series of lawsuits brought by New York State against opioid manufacturers and distributors. The announcement was made in front of the office of New York State Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo.

RUMC and the other seven providers will each receive \$375,000 per year over the course of the next four years. The allocated funding for RUMC will go directly to the hospital's Silberstein Clinic, which provides services and treatment for individuals over 18 years old who are seeking treatment for substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders.

Specifically, the funds will be utilized for the development of a new "wellness

division" providing holistic services like acupuncture and yoga; increased provision of harm reduction services including Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips and Naloxone kits; and increased community outreach to make the public aware of the dangers of substance use and recovery resources available through RUMC.

"This fight that was recently won is an amazing step forward in applying more resources to Staten Island," President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said. "For us at Richmond University Medical Center, behavioral medicine and substance abuse treatment is really one of the things that are at the top of our list. Thank you Assembly Member Pirozzolo for being our champion on this important matter."



Messina and Assembly Member Pirozzolo were joined by many of the borough's elected officials including New York State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella, and New York City Council Member Joseph Borelli.

The other awardees are Camelot of Staten Island; Community Health Action of Staten Island, Inc. (CHASI); the Staten Island Performing Provider System (SIPPS); Staten Island University Hospital; Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness; United Activities Unlimited, Inc. (UAU); and YMCA Counseling Service.

Richmond University Medical Center Remembers September 11, 2001



Richmond University Medical Center paid tribute to the victims of the attacks on September 11, 2001, with a ceremony in front of the hospital's 9/11 memorial. Hospital staff, NYPD, FDNY, and community leaders participated along with members of the Blue Knights law enforcement motorcycle organization, FDNY motorcycle organization Rolling Fire, and Rolling Thunder military veterans motorcycle chapter. The ceremony included tributes, a moment of silence, and reflections from community leaders who wanted to share their thoughts and memories of that day 23 years ago.

Among those in attendance were New York State Assembly Member Charles Fall; New York State Assembly Member Michael Reilly; and New York State Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo. They were joined by representatives from many of the borough's other elected officials and community organizations as well as senior officials from FDNY, EMS, and NYPD.

RUMC Auxiliary Installs New Officers



Recently, the RUMC Auxiliary installed its new slate of officers for 2024-2025. Installed were President Sharon Mineo; Vice President Lucille Forlenza; Treasurer Debbie Messina; Corresponding Secretary Jennifer Dominguez; and Recording Secretary Diane Scanlon.

The new slate of officers for the RUMC Auxiliary is sworn in for its 2024-2025 term.

RUMC Joins Staten Island Community to Honor NYPD Officers of the Year

Each year, Richmond University Medical Center proudly sponsors the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce's Police Officer

of the Year Awards Luncheon. The event honors officers and detectives of the NYPD for their service to the community.

This year's event honored members of the NYPD for actions performed in the line of duty in the year 2023.

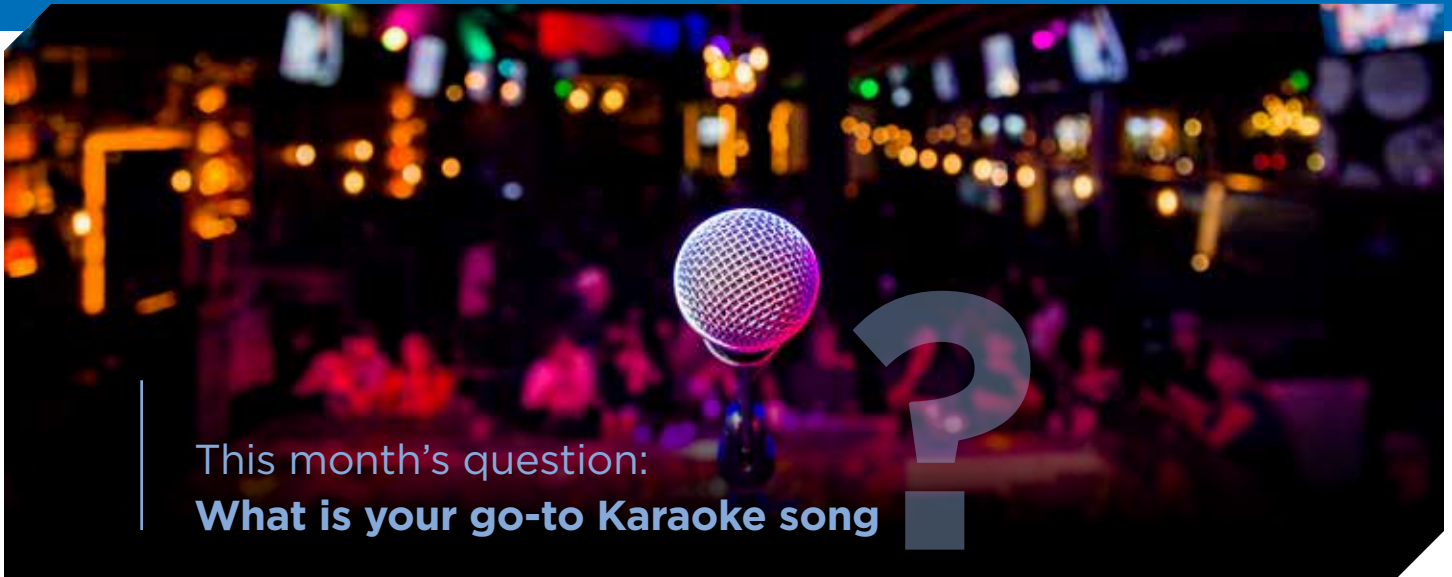


Representing RUMC at this year's luncheon were President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE; Gregory Fernandez, MD, Senior Vice President, Operations; Alex Lutz, Vice President, Public Relations and Marketing; and William Amaniera, Assistant Vice President, Emergency Services and Public Safety.



Among the elected officials and dignitaries attending the luncheon was Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella (top, right).

Q&A at RUMC



This month's question:
What is your go-to Karaoke song



Sarina Vo
Clinical Analyst
Baby by Justin Bieber



Denise Gregg
Unit Clerk
Department of Surgery
I Will Survive by Gloria Gaynor



Miyra Morales
Manager
Medicaid Financial Assistance Program
Oops I Did It Again by Britney Spears



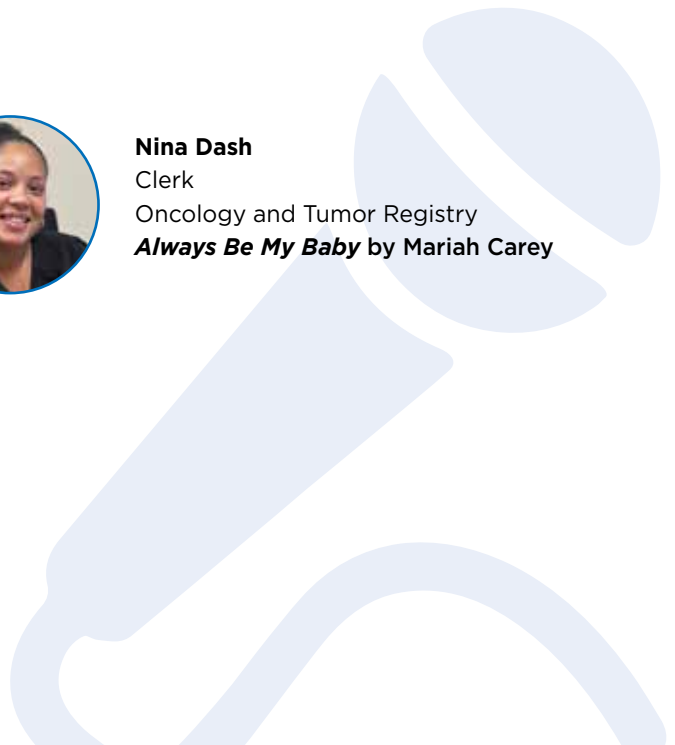
Michelle Pecoraro
Assistant Vice President
Richmond Health Network
Ain't No Mountain High Enough
by Marvin Gaye



Gina Ferreri
Senior Development Specialist
Development Department
Livin' On A Prayer by Bon Jovi



Nina Dash
Clerk
Oncology and Tumor Registry
Always Be My Baby by Mariah Carey



Learning the risks and treatment options of HELLP Syndrome



Michael Cabbad, MD, Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine

Pregnancy is often a beautiful, exciting, and awe-inspiring time for women and their partners and families, but it can also develop into a stressful and potentially dangerous experience that threatens the life of the mother and/or her baby if certain medical conditions are present. Pre-eclampsia — a pregnancy-related disorder characterized by the onset of hypertension (high blood pressure) and a large amount of protein in the urine — and a particular form of pre-eclampsia called HELLP Syndrome are among the concerning conditions pregnant women need to be aware of, especially if they are at high risk.

In the following interview, Michael Cabbad, MD, chair of obstetrics and gynecology and director of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Richmond University Medical Center, shares the facts on HELLP Syndrome (Hemolysis, Elevated Liver enzymes and Low Platelets) and how the condition is diagnosed and treated:

Q: What is HELLP Syndrome?

A: Gestational hypertensive disorders (hypertension in pregnancy) affect an estimated 15% of pregnant women, and pre-eclampsia, a subset of hypertensive disorders, affects 5% to 8% of these patients. Women diagnosed with HELLP Syndrome are an even further subset and account for an estimated 0.5 % to 1% of pre-eclampsia patients.

First recognized by the medical community in 1982 thanks to the efforts of Dr. Louis Weinstein, HELLP Syndrome is typically diagnosed any time after 20 weeks of gestation and is characterized by an elevated blood pressure (140/90 or above on two separate occasions four hours apart), the breakdown of red blood cells (hemolysis) which carry oxygen to the cells within our body, an elevation of liver enzymes that break down proteins (and the subsequent spillage of excess protein in the urine, measuring 300

milligrams or higher), and a lowered platelet count, which impairs blood from clotting.

Q: What are the symptoms of HELLP Syndrome and what happens if it's left untreated?

A: As with pre-eclampsia, symptoms of HELLP Syndrome can include elevated blood pressure, headache, blurred vision and gastric pain. When we investigate these, we look for the breakage of blood cells (hemolysis), a doubling of liver enzymes beyond baseline values, and platelet counts that are less than 150,000; when these manifestations present chemically, a pre-eclampsia patient is categorized in the HELLP Syndrome category. If left untreated, pregnant women with HELLP Syndrome can destabilize quickly, potentially leading to maternal mortality (which is estimated to be as high as 25% of cases) and/or the loss of the baby. Ultimately, if it's not well-managed, HELLP Syndrome can adversely impact both the baby and mother.

Q: Who's most at risk for developing HELLP Syndrome?

A: Though the population of individuals diagnosed with HELLP Syndrome is a very small group, women at greatest risk of developing the condition tend to be aged 35 and older and those who have had children before. Other risk factors include chronic hypertension and associated co-morbidities, such as obesity and diabetes.

Q: How is HELLP Syndrome treated?

A: Once patients are diagnosed with HELLP Syndrome (any time after 20 weeks), we accelerate delivery after stabilization of the mother. With other forms of pre-eclampsia, we work to manage the condition in order to advance the maturity of the baby, but when HELLP Syndrome presents, we're at risk of compromising the mother, so we move quickly towards delivery despite the gestational age of the fetus.

Q: How can HELLP Syndrome be prevented?

A: According to work conducted in Europe, the administration of two low-dose baby aspirin to pregnant moms at risk for pre-eclampsia may delay its onset and allow the baby more time to gain maturity in utero. This approach may also delay the onset of HELLP Syndrome in those identified to be at risk of pre-eclampsia; though no direct correlation has been identified at this time, we approach it in this manner. Top health tips for pregnant moms at risk for HELLP Syndrome (and for all pregnant women in general) include promoting their well-being by managing their stress, eating well (e.g., reducing consumption of sugary and highly processed foods, etc.) and maintaining an ideal weight. These steps are beneficial because issues experienced during pregnancy may foretell underlying vascular or other conditions that women may be faced with later in their lives.

Q: Finally, how is the team at Richmond University Medical Center prepared to diagnose and treat patients with HELLP Syndrome?

A: Every trained OB/GYN on our team is aware of the condition and readily treats patients who show signs. We're attuned to looking for hypertension, pre-eclampsia, and HELLP Syndrome on a regular basis and identifying patients who are at risk. Hypertensive disorders in general can cause stillbirths at different gestational ages, and the greater number of medical conditions or complications a patient possesses, the greater their risk of an unfavorable outcome. It's up to the patient and her health care team to be aware of her condition, and we take our role and responsibility to help and support our patients very seriously.

Richmond University Medical Center's Obstetrics and Gynecology Department can be reached at 718-818-3287 or by visiting www.rumcsi.org/obstetricsandgynecology.

New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Nada Ahmed — *Clinical Pharm Supervisor*
Amtul Ahmed — *Classroom Sub*
Lizbel Aquino — *Executive Assistant*
Arkie Carto — *Security Guard*
Tristian Cayard — *Paramedic*
Lianna Cohen — *Occupational Therapist*
Ann Dong — *Reg Respiratory Therapist*
Ronald Ferger — *Facilities Supervisor*
Melissa Finnegan — *Physical Therapist*
Taylor Francis-Castro — *Social Worker*
Ava Frisone — *Switchboard Operator*
Galina Kaplun — *Retail Pharmacy*
Avni Macwan — *Procurement Specialist*

Matthew Nyron — *Procurement Specialist*
Jessica Picone — *Nursing Assistant*
Vanny Reyes — *RN*
Dana Riley — *Medical Assistant*
Jonathan Russo — *Transporter*
Nadine Sanchez — *RN*
Yara Soliman — *Speech Language Pathologist*
Marina Sosunova — *Pathologist Assistant*
Alyson Vega — *RN*
Justice Vick — *Nursing Assistant*
Jian Bin Wei — *Clinical Lab Technologist*
Joseph Wradee — *Security Guard*

September Observances

Please join us in acknowledging the following health-related observances for the month of September:

Month-Long:

Baby Safety Month
Blood Cancer Awareness Month
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Food Safety Education Awareness Month
Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month
Healthy Aging Month
ITP Awareness Month
National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month
National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month
National Cholesterol Education Month
National Fruits and Veggies Month
National Pediculosis Prevention Month/Head Lice Prevention Month
National Recovery Month
National Sickle Cell Awareness Month
National Vascular Disease Awareness Month
National Yoga Month
Newborn Screening Awareness Month
Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
Pain Awareness Month
Peripheral Artery Disease Awareness Month
Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month
Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
Reye's Syndrome Awareness Month
Sepsis Awareness Month
Sexual Health Awareness Month
Sports Eye Safety Month
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
Urology Awareness Month
World Alzheimer's Month

Week-Long:

September 8 to 14: Folic Acid Awareness Week
September 8 to 14: National Assisted Living Week
September 8 to 14: National Suicide Prevention Week

September 9 to 15: Sexual Health Week
September 16 to 20: Malnutrition Awareness Week
September 16 to 22: National Rehabilitation Awareness Week
September 16 to 22: World Mitochondrial Disease Week
September 18 to 22: Fungal Disease Awareness Week

Recognition Days:

September 7: World Duchenne's Awareness Day
September 8: World Physical Therapy Day
September 9: International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day
September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day
September 13: National Celiac Disease Awareness Day
September 13: World Sepsis Day
September 15: World Lymphoma Awareness Day
September 17: Get Ready for Flu Day
September 17: World Patient Safety Day
September 18: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day
September 19: Aortic Dissection Awareness Day
September 20: National Concussion Awareness Day
September 21: Usher Syndrome Awareness Day
September 21: World Alzheimer's Day
September 22: Falls Prevention Awareness Day
September 23: World Lung Day
September 25: International Ataxia Awareness Day
September 25: World Pharmacists Day
September 25: National Women's Health and Fitness Day
September 26: Mesothelioma Awareness Day
September 26: World Contraception Day
September 28: World Rabies Day
September 28: Family Health and Fitness Day
September 27: Sport Purple for Platelets Day
September 29: World Heart Day

18th Annual

Richmond University
Medical Center

Foundation

Gala

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Hilton Garden Inn • Staten Island, New York

HONORING:

The Mount Sinai Health System

*In gratitude for strengthening their collaboration with our hospital, and
Brendan G. Carr, MD, MA, MS,
Chief Executive Officer, Professor
and Kenneth L. Davis, MD,
Distinguished Chair.*

Alexander Beylinson, DO

President of the Medical Staff
2021-2023

In recognition of his outstanding achievements as a physician leader and for providing the highest quality, compassionate care for patients.



Formal Invitation to Follow

For more information, please visit rumcsi.org/gala
or contact Gina Ferreri **718.818.2106**

Watch New Episodes of RUMC Vital Signs

EPISODE 16: CHANGING LIVES THROUGH OUR PEER ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Those caught in the cycle of substance use disorder may feel lost with nowhere to turn and the thought of seeking help kicking their habit or staying clean long term generates feelings of fear, embarrassment, or worry they will not be able to stay clean. In this episode, peer counselors Denise Nizzare and Stephen Nico discuss RUMC's Peer Advocacy Program and how they and their fellow advocates are saving lives.



Catch up on the Latest Episodes of RUMC Connections Podcast

SEASON 2, EPISODE 14: BUNIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO STAY ON YOUR FEET!

In this episode, host Meredith Gaskins is joined by podiatrist Michael Piccarelli, MD, to discuss bunions and the latest approaches for treatment.



To watch this episode and others covering a range of health-related topics, scan the QR code.



www.RUMCSI.org



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rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast