

Pediatric Oncology Patient Celebrated by Community Organization for Her Fight Against Cancer



Yanelkis Mora (center) with her mom Altagracia Andres Marte (seated, left), family friend Edison Suarez Flores (seated, right), Mario Peichev, MD, and nurses Nancy Keane, RN, and Susan Buerkle, RN.

On September 18, members of the Richmond University Medical Center family celebrated a young woman who has been called “a true warrior in our Hematology Oncology Department.” Yanelkis Mora, 24, and members of her family were on hand at the Old Bermuda Inn catering hall as she was presented with the opportunity to take an all-expenses paid vacation to a location of her choosing courtesy of the Dixie Fund. Also honored that night for his care of Mora was RUMC’s pediatric oncologist Mario Peichev, MD.

For the past 66 years, the William D. Wernicoff Children’s Foundation of Esquire Lodge, Inc. also known as The Dixie Fund, has fulfilled its mission of giving aid and assistance to handicapped or infirm children. This organization fulfills the dreams of cancer patients who have aged out of the “Make a Wish Foundation” and in turn, offers “Make a Dream Come True” for patients ages 17 to 25 years old. Dr. Peichev selected Mora whom he has cared for over the past several years.

Joined by her mother Altagracia Andres Marte and family friend Edison Suarez Flores, Mora said she is planning to finish obtaining her high school diploma,

an achievement put on hold as she battled her cancer. Once that is accomplished, she will select a location for her trip. She said she wanted to select a place she and her whole family could enjoy together because they were such a strong source of strength and foundation during her treatment.

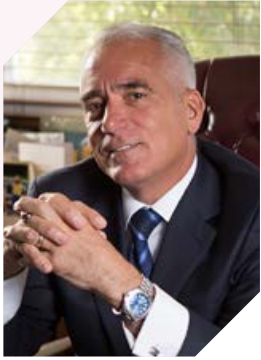
In addition to Dr. Peichev and additional RUMC staff, Mora was also joined by Nancy Keane, RN, and Susan Buerkle, RN, two nurses who were part of her care team at RUMC.

For his commitment and dedication to caring for Mora and pediatric patients like her, Dr. Peichev was presented with the Healthcare Hero Award. Dr. Peichev has been in practice for over 20 years and has achieved dual board certification in Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology from the American Board of Pediatrics.



Dr. Peichev with Mora and her mother after he was presented with his Healthcare Hero award.

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



Each year at this time, while the leaves are beginning to change color, it seems like the whole world turns pink...for good reason. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and pink is its official color, the distinctive pink ribbon becoming synonymous with October.

The pink ribbon movement began as a grassroots effort in the early 1990s when 68-year-old Charlotte Haley handmade peach ribbons to raise awareness about the lack of funding

for cancer prevention research. SELF magazine published a story about her and requested the rights to her ribbons. She said no, not wanting to go commercial. So, in 1991, SELF created ribbons in another color: pink. The rest, as they say, is history.

Researchers around the world are working to find new and effective ways to prevent, detect, and treat breast cancer, as well as improve the quality of life of patients and survivors. Yet, despite all our efforts, breast cancer remains a persistent adversary. It remains the most common cancer in women in the United States, except for skin cancers, and accounts for about 30%, or 1 in 3, of all new female cancers each year. According to the American Cancer Society, this year alone over 310,700 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women, about 56,500 new cases of ductal carcinoma in situ will be diagnosed, and sadly, nearly 42,300 women will die from breast cancer.

Our hospital has been at the forefront of the battle against breast cancer throughout our over 100 years of service to Staten Island. We proudly are home to the longest consecutively accredited cancer program on Staten Island, having first earned accreditation from the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Cancer back in 1937. In 2018, we opened our state-of-the-art Center for Cancer Care at 1000 South Avenue and later that same year, our world class Breast and Imaging Center at 1161 Victory Boulevard. Early detection is key. The 5-year survival rate for localized breast cancer,

meaning the cancer is contained to the breast, is 99%. The American Cancer Society recommends that women ages 40 to 44 who are at average risk consider a mammogram every year, and women ages 45 to 54 should have one completed annually. Please contact our Breast and Imaging Center at 718-818-1161 and make an appointment today. Do it for yourself and your loved ones.

RUMC is a proud sponsor each year of the American Cancer Society's annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Midland Beach. This year's walk will kick off at 8 AM on Sunday, October 27. I invite everyone to come down, visit our information booth and proudly walk with our hospital as we show our support for those fighting breast cancer, celebrate those who have overcome the disease, and remember those no longer with us because of it. No registration is needed. Just come down to our RUMC booth and remember to wear your pink! We look forward to having you on our RUMC team of walkers!

After the walk, please join us at Royal Crown Bakery and Cafe for an after-walk party. A complete lunch with desserts to follow will be served from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. It's \$50 per person with all proceeds going to support our Breast and Imaging Center. Royal Crown is located just a few short blocks from the walk at 1350 Hylan Boulevard at the corner of Old Town Road. Come and enjoy a delicious lunch and support us in the fight against breast cancer.

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

"Was in the ER and had the most wonderful, kind, compassionate and caring physician's assistant in the world. Hany Yousef was amazing. More doctors should be like him. RUMC is lucky to have a doctor like him. Thank you Hany for everything you did. God Bless you."

— R.K.

"I guess it was our lucky day. We walked into the emergency room and everyone was extremely helpful. Doctors were on the top of their game and kept an eye on my son."

— C.

"On September 5 of last year I suffered a terrible fall. I had two large lumps on my head that were bleeding down my face, my right leg was very swollen and painful and I could not stand or walk. I was taken to the trauma unit and was quickly surrounded by nurses who were joined by a doctor. Every one of them was professional and kind. Their professionalism and kindness helped me stay calm. I had many tests and it was discovered that my hip was broken and I had massive internal bleeding. Dr. Jayram explained how serious my injury was. He said he wanted to start blood transfusions and operate quickly. He promised to do it that evening and he stayed late and did. It was important to me that I acknowledge the wonderful care I got. God bless them all and thank you from the bottom of my heart."

— Canditta Ciulla

Richmond University Medical Center Welcomes New Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



New Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer J.D. Zipkin, MD, MA

Richmond University Medical Center has announced the appointment of J.D. Zipkin, MD, MA, as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Dr. Zipkin comes to RUMC with a wealth of experience in data-driven systems analysis and clinical operations. Prior to his new role, he served as Chief Medical Officer, overseeing 275 outpatient on-demand healthcare facilities at 11 major health systems across the country, including all Northwell Health urgent care centers. Dr. Zipkin is double board certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. He is passionate about clinical quality and antibiotic stewardship. He has also created numerous processes to improve patient outcomes, including processes that spanned across multiple health systems.

Dr. Zipkin earned his undergraduate degree in Biology and Computer Science at Haverford College, a Master's in Medical Science from Boston University, and his Medical Doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Zipkin previously served as a chief resident physician at Penn State Health. He has also been elected into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. He earned the Urgent Care Association's national Quality and Safety Award, and their Inspiring Excellence Award. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"To me, RUMC represents high quality, compassionate care, deeply rooted in the history and people of Staten Island," Dr. Zipkin said. "I'm greatly looking forward to serving the healthcare needs of our community."

Christine Mahoney Named New Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President



New Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President Christine Mahoney, DNP, RN, AGACNP-BC, NEA-BC, CCRN

A highly respected nurse leader with over 25 years of experience in clinical nursing, healthcare management, and clinical operations, Christine Mahoney, DNP, RN, AGACNP-BC, NEA-BC, CCRN has been named as the and Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President for Richmond University Medical Center.

"I look forward to working alongside dedicated professionals who strive to promote patient-centered care that engages patients and their families in care decisions to create a more holistic care experience and who continue to demonstrate a commitment to transparency and continuous improvement," Dr. Mahoney said.

Before joining RUMC, Dr. Mahoney was the Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President at Mount Sinai Beth Israel and Downtown, and the Vice President of Critical Care Nursing for the Mount Sinai Health System. She has also served in leadership roles at both New York University's Langone Medical Center and New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Dr. Mahoney has a proven track record of improving patient care outcomes, leading multidisciplinary teams, and driving strategic initiatives within healthcare organizations. Throughout her career, she

has successfully implemented patient safety protocols, streamlined hospital workflows, and participated in the development of standardized educational programs for both nursing staff and students.

She is an advocate for patient-centered care and healthcare innovation, frequently participating in initiatives to integrate technology and evidence-based practices into nursing care. Dr. Mahoney is also passionate about supporting the professional development of nurses, having served as a mentor to numerous emerging nurse leaders.

Dr. Mahoney earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Hunter College in New York City, an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Statutory Certificate from Columbia University's School of Nursing, and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Case Western Reserve University. Her professional affiliations include the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL), Sigma Theta Tau International Society, and the New York Organization for Nursing Leadership (NYONL) where she serves as Treasurer. In recognition of her contributions, she has been honored with multiple leadership and excellence in nursing awards.

Q&A at RUMC

This month's question:

What was your favorite Halloween costume growing up



Peter Luck
Transporter
"Batman"



Romeo Smith
Senior Recruiter, Human Resources Department
"The Hulk"



Tasnia
Resident Physician
"An In-n-Out worker"



Justin Carey
Desktop Analyst, IT Department
"Frozone"



Jeannette
Registered Nurse
"I was in an inflatable costume with a clown riding on another clowns back."



Ashu Sharma
Registrar, Laboratory
"Pocahontas"



Joseph Cuozzo
Vice President, Information Technology
"I was the Beast and my daughter was Belle."



Alyssa Pinciotto
Switchboard Operator
"I was Batman three times when I was younger."



Northfield Bank Foundation Delivers for RUMC



Earlier this year, Northfield Bank Foundation sponsored Richmond University Medical Center's annual golf, tennis and bocce outing at Richmond County Country Club. On September 24, RUMC Trustee and President and Chief Executive Officer of Northfield Bancorp, Steven M. Klein presented the hospital with a check in the amount of \$30,161. He was joined by Northfield Foundation Executive Director Diane Senerchia. Accepting on behalf of RUMC was President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE; and Chair of the Board of Trustees Timothy C. Harrison. Also on hand for the presentation were Trustees and RUMC Foundation members Marcello Sciarrino; Joseph Torres, and Robert Urs. They were joined by RUMC Vice President for Development, Joseph Burt.

Quality Manager Celebrated with Future of Social Work Award

The Latino Social Work Coalition and Scholarship Fund recently presented its Future of Social Work award to Quality Manager Judith Ann Casado, LCSW. Casado is a licensed clinical social worker in Richmond University Medical Center's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science. The award ceremony was held on Friday September 27 at Villa Barone in the Bronx.

"As a Latina social worker I felt incredibly honored and proud to accept this award during Hispanic Heritage month no less," Casado said. "This is my first award in the social work field and having this level of recognition for my commitment to the advancement of the field and passion for service is very gratifying. It was also very touching to see how much the staff supported me by voting (for me). It really means more than words could ever express."

This award presented to Casado celebrates individuals who promote a positive public image of social work through unwavering commitment to the core values of service, social justice, dignity and worth

of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. Recipients of the award also exhibit a dedicated commitment to working with predominantly under-resourced communities.

Of Puerto Rican descent, Casado earned her master's degree in social work from NYU in 2015. Recently she was promoted to her current position where she says her new role has allowed her to spearhead innovative practices that enhance the quality of RUMC's services to the community. She is currently furthering her education by pursuing an MBA in Healthcare.

"Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person," Casado said. "This guiding principle has driven my passion for the field and reinforced my belief that social workers are vital in any context where lives are impacted. My vision for the future is to continue making a positive impact on people's lives by leading with compassion, ethics, and innovation."



Judith Ann Casado, LCSW, with her Future of Social Work award.



Happy Retirement to Rosemarie!

On September 6, longtime nurse and nursing administrator Rosemarie Scalcione officially retired after a 45 year career in nursing. Rosemarie spent 23 of her years in nursing at Richmond

University Medical Center, working in a variety of roles and units including surgery and emergency medicine before moving into nursing administration. To celebrate her retirement, Rosemarie was

joined by many of the friends and colleagues she worked alongside throughout her career. Congratulations Rosemarie!

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- ✓ Get quick access to all medical services
- ✓ Find a physician for your health care needs
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Richmond University Medical Center

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STATEN ISLAND, NY 10310
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New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Valerie Adragna — *MA*
Gisselle Almazo — *Clerk*
Kettelie Antonie — *Respiratory Therapist*
Jennifer Aurilia — *RN*
Arkie Carto — *Security Guard*
Jelisa DeGroat — *Sub Teacher/Para*
Doriva Desine — *MA*
Diane Duffy — *Payroll/Staffing Clerk*
Joseph Fitzpatrick — *Social Worker*
Taylor Francis-Castro — *Social Worker*
Gabrielle Garcia — *RN*
Kristina Girgosko — *EMT Driver*
Kimberly Hakaj — *RN Educator*
Stephanie Hernandez — *RN*

Brianna Homan — *RN*
Diozy Joseph — *Social Worker*
Ardit Koti — *Desktop Analyst*
Amanda Manzi — *Documentation Specialist*
Yasmine Mathieu — *RN*
Geanni McCombs — *Food Service Worker*
Natalie Menefah — *RN*
Devin Mooney — *RN Intern*
Ray-yan Othman — *Clinic Registrar*
Jacqueline Santiago — *Social Worker*
Danielle Schmalix — *RN*
Medina Suma — *Ultrasound Tech*
Adriana Valazquez — *RN*

October Observances

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

Month-Long:

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease (CMT) Awareness Month
Contact Lens Safety Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Down Syndrome Awareness Month
Eye Injury Prevention Month
Health Literacy Month
Healthy Lung Month
Home Eye Safety Awareness Month
Liver Cancer Awareness Month
Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month
National ADHD Awareness Month
National Audiology Awareness Month
National Bullying Prevention Month
National Dental Hygiene Month
National Medical Librarians Month
National Orthodontic Health Month
National Physical Therapy Month
National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month
Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month
Prenatal-onset GBS Disease Recognition Month
Spina Bifida Awareness Month
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month

Week Long:

October 6 to 12: Mental Illness Awareness Week
October 6 to 12: National Primary Care Week
October 6 to 12: National PA Week
October 12 to 20: Bone and Joint Action Week
October 15 to 21: International Infection Prevention Week

October 20 to 26: National Healthcare Quality Week
October 20 to 26: Respiratory Care Week
October 21 to 25: National Health Education Week

Recognition Days:

October 1: International Day of Older Persons
October 5: World Meningitis Day
October 6: World Cerebral Palsy Day
October 7: Child Health Day
October 7: Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness Day
October 10: National Depression Screening Day
October 10: World Mental Health Day
October 10: World Sight Day
October 11: International Day of the Girl
October 12: World Hospice and Palliative Care Day
October 13: Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day
October 15: Global Handwashing Day
October 15: National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day
October 15: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day
October 16: Restart a Heart Day
October 16: World Food Day
October 18: Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) Action Day
October 18: National Mammography Day
October 19: World Pediatric Bone and Joint Day
October 20: World Osteoporosis Day
October 21: National Check Your Meds Day
October 22: International Stuttering Awareness Day
October 29: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
October 29: World Psoriasis Day
October 30: World Hypophosphatasia Day

A Night at the COPA

Join us in continuing to build an even brighter future for Richmond University Medical Center. Our Annual Gala provides an opportunity to celebrate, have fun, and support the advancement of healthcare for the people of Staten Island.

Dom and Barbara Famulari — *Dinner Chairs*

Event Committee

Brian Gomez — *Chair*

Amy Aromin

Yana Beylinson

Lina Fang

Gina Ferreri

Anthony Libecchi

Lisa Lonuzzi

Brittany Marcinek

Debra Messina

Sally Malfi

Michael Montalbano

Hon. Dianne Powers

Vienna Profeta

Claire Regan

Debra Santora

Vincent Theurer, Jr.

Nancy Tricorico

Robert Urs

To purchase
 tickets or
 sponsorships
 scan here.



Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE,
 President and CEO
 The Board of Trustees and
 The Foundation Board of Directors
 Request the honor of your presence:

Saturday, November 2, 2024
 Cocktail Reception at 7:00PM
 Dinner at 8:00PM
Black Tie Optional

Hilton Garden Inn
 1100 South Avenue
 Staten Island, New York 10314

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.

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.



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



www.RUMCSI.org



Catch up on the Latest Episodes of RUMC Connections Podcast

▶ SEASON 2, EPISODE 15: CLOSING THE WOUND: HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

In this episode, host Meredith Gaskins is joined by Medical Director of RUMC's Wound Care Center and Division Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Michael Lacqua, MD. Dr. Lacqua discusses wound care and how RUMC's medical professionals utilize Staten Island's only hyperbaric oxygen chamber to treat a variety of conditions and improve the patient's healing process.



To listen to these episodes
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 of health-related topics,
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