

AUGUST 2025 • RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER • WWW.RUMCSI.ORG

# Richmond University Medical Center Earns Another National Award for Stroke Care

After being accredited as an Advanced Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center by the American Stroke Association and The Joint Commission this past May, Richmond University Medical Center has now earned the Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus quality achievement award from the American Heart Association. At the same time, RUMC also earned the American Heart Association's Target: Type 2 Diabetes

Honor Roll award for its care of stroke patients who also have Type 2 diabetes.

RUMC earned the Gold Plus award, the highest level possible, for its continuous commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines. It is the seventh consecutive year that RUMC's stroke program has earned Gold Plus distinction.

Chief Medical Officer, Chair of Medicine, and Chief of Endocrinology, Philip Otterbeck, MD, said, "This recognition from the American Heart Association is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our multidisciplinary stroke team and our commitment to delivering timely, evidence-based care that improves outcomes and saves lives. It reflects our ongoing investment in clinical excellence, innovation, and quality improvement in stroke care."

Patients diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes may be at higher risk for complications after suffering a stroke. The American Heart Association's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award was presented to RUMC for continuously demonstrating specialized care for diabetic stroke patients. This is the fourth consecutive year that RUMC has earned a place on the Honor Roll.

"This Honor Roll recognition underscores the depth of our clinical expertise," Dr. Otterbeck said. "This



distinction highlights our team's ability to address not just the stroke itself, but the metabolic and vascular challenges that often accompany it, ensuring a more holistic and effective approach to patient care."

The Get With The Guidelines program ensures patient care is aligned with the latest research and evidence-based guidelines. Get With The Guidelines

Stroke is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines. Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, participants also educate patients on how to manage their health and recovery at home.

According to the American Heart Association, stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. In 2022, stroke accounted for approximately 1 of every 20 deaths in the United States. Over 165,300 deaths were due to stroke and someone in the United States suffered a stroke every 3 minutes, 11 seconds.

In May of this year, RUMC earned the distinction of Advanced Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center for its expertise and high-quality care performing thrombectomies for patients who suffered a stroke. A thrombectomy is a minimally invasive procedure where a hair-thin catheter is inserted into a stroke victim to remove a blood clot from a vein or artery, restoring normal blood flow. Richmond University Medical Center launched its thrombectomy program in 2019.



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



I am proud to share some exciting news that reflects the incredible dedication, compassion, and excellence each of you brings to our hospital every day. Over the past two months, we been honored with several prestigious national awards and accreditations that recognize our continuous commitment to providing high quality care and advanced medical services to our community:

- For the fourth consecutive year, we were named a High Performing Hospital by U.S. News and World Report for our care of patients diagnosed with heart failure. The designation is based on data including patient survival rates, recovery at home, and number of patients treated, among others. Nearly 4,500 hospitals were evaluated, with only 652 hospitals, including RUMC, earning the top designation of High Performing Hospital. Hospitals that earned a high performing rating also typically have better patient outcomes compared to other hospitals.
- Our Bariatric and Metabolic Institute earned the title of Blue Distinction Center by Blue Cross Blue Shield for consistently providing high quality patient care and results leading to fewer complications and readmissions. To earn the title, our Institute team demonstrated a high level of expertise and commitment to care across a full range of bariatric services, including surgical care, post-operative care, outpatient follow-up, and patient education.

Our Department of Laboratory Medicine was one of just over 8,000 facilities worldwide to earn accreditation from the College of American Pathologists for its high quality care of lab specimens and tests, as well as its strict adherence to quality control measures. In 2024, RUMC's Department of Laboratory Medicine performed over 1.725 million lab tests and nearly 9,600 pathology procedures. These were increases over the previous year, 2023, when the department performed over 1.5 million lab tests and nearly 9,300 pathology procedures.

These achievements are a direct result of each department's hard work, professionalism, and dedication. These accolades reaffirm the trust our patients place in us and inspire us to continue raising the standard of care. These awards belong to all of you, our entire RUMC Family. No matter your role within our hospital, whether you are a part of these departments, are directly caring for patients or not, these recent accomplishments and so many more reaffirm that all of us are committed to delivering safe, compassionate, and high-quality care every single day.

#### 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**

"This is the first physical therapist that my toddler takes who is actually patient with her and has helped her improve so much and so quickly, along with her speech therapist. Front desk is always super nice and helpful even with scheduling."

-G.J

"I love this place. They respect my needs and desires at different stages of the process, offering many options. I have received invaluable help and support for many years here, on and off when I needed it. The more I trust their judgment, the better I get!" "I want to sincerely thank the Emergency Department team at Richmond University Medical Center for saving my life not once, but twice. I was brought in both times in a diabetic coma and their quick, professional, and compassionate care truly saved me. The doctors and nurses didn't just do their jobs, they went above and beyond to make sure I was safe, stable, and treated with kindness. I felt seen, respected, and cared for. I highly recommend this hospital to anyone in need of emergency care. These are real heroes, and I will be forever grateful."

-A.O.

### **Richmond University Medical Center Welcomes New Trustees**

Richmond University Medical Center welcomed three new Trustees to its board, all with terms beginning on July 1. The newly appointed Trustees are Anne M. Boyle, Heather M. Butts, and Rev. Lester J. Figueroa. The new Trustees will help guide the hospital's strategic

direction and focus on innovation, equity, and compassionate service.

"We are honored to welcome these three outstanding individuals to our Board of Trustees," President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said. "Each brings a unique perspective and depth of experience that will be invaluable as we continue to advance our mission of delivering exceptional care to our community."



**Anne M. Boyle** is a human resources professional with 35 years of experience in HR leadership. She earned her A.A.S and B.S. degrees in business management and finance from CUNY and pursued her M.S. Ed from Brooklyn College. Anne also received her M.S. in HR from Cornell University. Currently, she is HR senior executive and EVP at Wells Fargo, leading HR for the Chief Operations Office. She also serves as president of the Pride (LGBTQ+) Employee Resource Network at Wells Fargo.

"Quality medical care is critical to our community in Staten Island," Boyle said. "As a lifelong Staten islander, who has seen the population growth on Staten Island, continued expansion of health care and trauma care are front and center to our needs. I am proud to join the board of a level one trauma center that has attracted strong leadership, doctors, nurses, and a board of distinguished members of our community to further RUMC's mission."



**Heather M. Butts JD, MPH, MA,** is an accomplished academic and professional with extensive experience in public health, law, and ethics. She received her B.A. from Princeton University, where she was a history major, concentrating in American and African American Studies. She received her J.D. from St. John's University School of Law; her master's in Public Health from Harvard University and her master's in Education from Columbia University's Teachers College.

Currently, Butts serves as an assistant professor in the department of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University Mailman School of public health. She is also the faculty course lead for the Leadership Course at the Mailman School of Public Health. She is also co-founder of the non-profit H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths, Inc. The organization partners with 90 programs each year to help more than 7,000 students achieve their dream of going to college.

"It is an honor to have been selected to be a Trustee of Richmond University Medical Center." Butts said "As a public health professional and professor, I have long followed the innovative work at RUMC and am eager to contribute to the efforts of this vital institution. Thank you to the board and staff of RUMC for your dedication to the Staten Island community."



**Rev. Lester J. Figueroa** was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and studied at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico where he completed his undergraduate and post graduate degrees in political science, international relations, public and private administration and law. He is a graduate of ministerial studies at Global University and is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God.

Figueroa began practicing law in 1984 and in 1990 became a partner at Borah, Goldstein, Altschuler, Nahins & Goidel, P.C., where he has been employed since 1984.

In 1993, Lester helped establish the Latino Civic Association, a not-for-profit that services the growing Hispanic community on Staten Island.

In 2008, Lester became lead Pastor of Calvary Assembly of God. Today, Calvary holds four services every Sunday, holds mid-week classes, and a prayer and healing service every Friday. Calvary also hosts a food pantry, serving more than 300 families from across the borough.

"I am honored to be a member of a team where its members are dedicated to making us all better." Figueroa said. "Healthcare is a vital component of the life of a community, and this position will allow me to employ my resources and talents to serve RUMC in its efforts to continue to serve Staten Island with excellence."

# **Celebrating Excellence in Residency and Fellowship Program Honoree**

Each month, one or more residents and/or fellows are selected for their exemplary service and for embodying RUMC's commitment to fostering a collaborative culture that enhances patient care and professional excellence. Honorees are nominated by their colleagues and selected by the Office of Graduate Medical Education's Wellness Council.

This month's honoree is Kavita Schapira, MD. Dr. Schapira is a PGY-4 and chief resident in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and hails from Connecticut.



# **Congratulations to our** employee of the month:

#### **Evette Jackson**

Department of Public Safety and Security



### PR and Marketing Department Earn Awards at National Competition

annual Healthcare Advertising Awards competition. Over 4.300

competitions for its efforts, all of which are in collaboration with David Henry Marketing & Media.

**CATEGORY:** 

**Calendar: Newsletter:** 

**Newspaper ad-single:** 

**Poster:** 

**Special Events Materials:** 

**CATEGORY:** 

**Newspaper ad-single ad: Total advertising campaign:**  **Women's Center for Obstetrics & Gynecology** 

Maternity-100 years of care

2024 Employee calendar

**Grid Ad-100 years of care** 

2024 RUMC Gala invitation

**RUMC Chronicle design** 

**CATEGORY:** 

Women's Center for Obstetrics & Gynecology mailer **Direct mail:** 

Flu shots

**Special promotion:** 2024 RUMC Holiday Card

**Total Advertising Campaign:** Cardiovascular-100 years of care

**CATEGORY:** 

Richmond Health Network doctors grid ad **Special promotion:** 

Integrated marketing campaign: A Century of Innovation RUMC timeline ad - 100 years of care



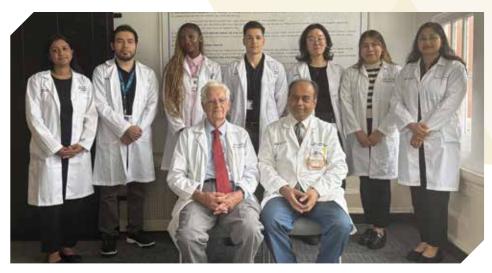
# Department of Clinical Research Opening Doors to the Future of Healthcare Today

Richmond University Medical Center is continuously striving to provide the most advanced and clinically proven effective healthcare services to the Staten Island community. The Department of Clinical Research is no stranger to the importance of advancing and elevating patient care.

Under the leadership of Dennis Bloomfield, MD, and Jakey Patwari, MD, and staffed only with volunteers, RUMC's department of Clinical Research manages a large array of research across multiple therapeutic areas, including cardiology, endocrinology, psychiatry, and oncology.

"We are probably the hospital's smallest department with the biggest impact on medical knowledge and world health," Dr. Bloomfield said. "This is because the department takes part in the proprietary worldwide testing programs of many, almost magical, emerging medications."

Currently, studies are underway to examine new medications for heart disease, with one focused on heart failure in patients with obesity, and another for heart patients with



compromised kidney function. Additional ongoing studies include one on diabetics who have not met their treatment goals; another on preventing high cholesterol heart attacks; one on major depression in collaboration with the department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; several more dealing with cancer; and studies required for the continued accreditation of RUMC's Department of Surgery.

The commercial studies have the capacity to bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars for the hospital,

and the house staff studies, when published, are strong supports for competitive fellowship programs, Dr. Bloomfield said.

"Our goal is to bridge resource gaps and elevate care, ensuring all Staten Island residents have access to cutting edge treatment," Dr. Patwari said.

For more information on current trials and to learn more about the department of Clinical Research, call 718-818-3170.

### **New Council Member Visit**

Newly elected Council Member Frank Morano recently visited Richmond University Medical Center as he tours facilities across Staten Island that service his district. Council Member Morano represents the 51st Council District, which includes the communities of Annadale, Arden Heights, Bulls Head, Charleston, Eltingville, Emerson Hill, Freshkills Park, Great Kills, Huguenot, Lighthouse Hill, Manor Heights, New Springville, Oakwood, Pleasant Plains, Prince's Bay, Richmondtown, Rossville, Todt Hill, Tottenville, Travis, Willowbrook, and Woodrow. As part of the Staten Island City Council Delegation, Council Member Morano helped secure \$1.4 million in the city's FY2026 budget. The funds will be utilized to expand RUMC's ambulatory care services.



### New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Monica Aceves - Resident Abimbola Akinbolade - Resident Mohammad Albakri – Resident Michael Albert - Paramedic Genevieve Asamoah - Resident Redeat Assefa — Resident Janet Back — Resident Prateeti Bekoju — Resident Rachel Blackman - Resident Abigail Bucklin - Resident Angie Cardona — Resident Joseph Carpentio — Resident Henry Chang — Receptionist Danny Chow - Pharmacy Tech Linda Colon — Yoga Instructor Ikenna D-JasonAnusionwu — Resident Mostafa Elseikh — Resident Simson Euvrard — Mental Health Tech Mojeoyinola Fadairo — Resident Malick Fall — Mental Health Tech

Rooshna Fatima - Resident Leah Finkelstein - RN Jovce Frascona - Paralegal Olumbimpe Ruth Freeman - RN Jeremy Fuchs - Security Guard Dandan Geng — Resident Michael Gioia - Physician Namratha Guruvaiah Sridhara -Resident Brian Gutierrez - Resident Kunchok Gyamtso — Resident Ave Hanlon — Resident Giovanny Holguin - Resident Muhammad Husain - Resident Sandra Jaroonwanichkul - Resident Hira Jawad - Resident Richard John - Registrar Daniel Kallini - Resident Lina Adel Kara - Resident Maria Kazantsec - Resident

Sherin Keenalil - RN Julia Kennedy - EMT Habiba Khan - Resident Kaitlyn Kilimnik - EMT Karolina Kuporosova — Pharmacy Tech Dianna Levin — Resident Melissa Lukas - EMT Stephanie Marcus - Social Work Kenneth Marks - MRI Tech Mazuk Masub - Resident Erica McNeil - Mental Health Tech Karla Mukwelle-Acha — Resident Julinda Nacaj — Nursing Assistant Kimberly Nandlal - Resident Marina Nasir - Resident Danish Nazir - Resident Aravindh Nirmalan — Resident Naveah Norman - RN William Otto - Food Service Worker Stacey Pasquale — Recepionist

Angelika Pietrzyk - Medical Assistant Frank Politi - Engineer Krystle Repollet - Registrar Kassandra Rivera - Social Work Syeda Sarder - Resident Mollie Schear - Resident Zainab Shah — Resident Molly Shay — Resident Vince Song - Resident Fnu Suman - Resident Aleksandra Todorova – Resident Ryan Trost - Medical Assistant Elaine Vanger - Clinical Lab Tech Monique Wallace - Pharmacy Tech Yvana Pascaline Wanko Lowe -Resident Melissa Wilfrid - Resident Tehseen Zahra - Resident Ruoheng Zhang — Resident

# Watch New Episodes of RUMC Vital Signs



Nearly 30 million people in the United States have sleep apnea. In this episode, our chief of ENT and Head and Neck Surgery, Dr. Christopher Lisi, and surgeon Dr. Shanmugapiriyan Sivarajah dive into what sleep apnea is and available treatments, including a new procedure at RUMC called Inspire. Also, we meet James who has undergone the procedure and talks about how it has changed his life for the better.





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



Airing on Community Media of Staten Island Chanel 34 and available at www.RUMCSl.org, each episode of RUMC Vital Signs covers the latest trends in medicine and provides in-depth information on the services provided at Richmond University Medical Center.



# Catch Up on the Latest Episodes of RUMC Connections Podcast

### EPISODE 23: LYME DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

On this episode, Jessie Saverimuttu, MD, an infectious disease specialist at Richmond University Medical Center, helps us separate fact from fear when it comes to tick bites, Lyme disease, and how to protect yourself and your loved ones. From early symptoms and proper tick removal to prevention tips and treatment options, we've got you covered with everything you need to know to stay safe this season





To listen to these episodes and others covering a range of health-related topics, scan the QR code.



rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast

### This month's question:

## What is your favorite way to unwind after your shift?



Nicholas Gentilella, RN, Department of Surgery
"After my shift in the surgical unit, I love to go to the gym to unwind and take some time for myself. I always start off by stretching and working out my split of the day. I also always make sure to do some cardio before heading out!"



Tara Gerbino, RN
Endoscopy Department
"After my shift, the first step is getting home and taking a long shower, followed by a face mask. After my self-care, I sit in my backyard by the pool with my husband."



Gisette Smith, Nursing Assistant
Critical Care Unit
"My de-stress routine is pretty simple.
I make sure to get home and take a
hot shower, followed by putting on
some comfy pajamas and then turning
on the television to watch my movie



Claudia Beadle
EEG/EKG Tech, Cardiovascular
Department
"After my shift, my relaxation routine
is pretty simple, but sweet. I get home
and decompress myself by showering
and putting on some Judge Judy. I
watch on my couch until it's time to
go to bed."



Michelle Rumney,
Patient Access, Obstetrics and
Gynecology Department
"After a shift at the front desk, I love to
talk long walks on the boardwalk with
my husband, and on days when my
coworkers get off at the same time,
we go and play a few rounds of bingo
and catch up! By far some of the best
ways to de-stress for me."

### **August Observances**

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

#### **Month-Long:**

Children's Eye Health and Safety Awareness Month
Digestive Tract Paralysis Awareness Month
Gastroparesis Awareness Month
National Breastfeeding Month
National Eye Exam Month
National Immunization Awareness Month
Psoriasis Action Month
Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month
Summer Sun Safety Month

#### Week-Long:

August 1 to 7: World Breastfeeding Week August 3 to 9: National Health Center Week August 18 to 22: Contact Lens Health Week

#### **Recognition Days:**

August 1: National Minority Donor Awareness Day

August 1: World Lung Cancer Day

August 3: Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day

August 18: World Breast Cancer Research Day

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

August 30: National Grief Awareness Day

August 31: International Overdose Awareness Day

19th Cannual

# Richmond University Medical Center

Foundation



# SAVE THE DATE

# Saturday, November 1, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn • Staten Island, New York

### **HONORING:**



Francesco Rotatori, MD, FACC Chief, Cardiovascular Department President. RUMC Medical Staff

Robert Urs
President, RUMC Foundation
RUMC Board of Trustees





Special Gratitude Award presented to Angels on the Bay

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



