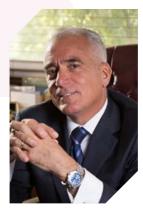


OCTOBER 2025 • RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER • WWW.RUMCSI.ORG



Ceremony honors those lost along with dedication to Former RUMC Assistant Vice President. Story on pg. 3

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



October is recognized across the nation as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time when we come together to raise awareness, support survivors, and encourage early detection through screening. Here at Richmond University Medical Center, we are proud to stand at the forefront of breast health care for our community. Our Breast and Imaging Center, located at 1161 Victory Boulevard, continues to serve as one of Staten Island's leading resources for women's health. The center offers state-

of-the-art screening and diagnostic mammography under the direction of our Chief of Breast Radiology, Dara Fedele, MD, DABR; and we are proud to now provide comprehensive breast care under the leadership of our new fellowship-trained breast surgeon, Arthy Yoga, MD, whose expertise and compassionate approach have already made a remarkable impact.

As we recognize National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let's remember that every screening, every kind word, and every act of care makes a difference. Together, we help save lives. I encourage everyone to share this message within our community—reminding family, friends, and patients of the importance of early detection and routine screening.

We also continue to make remarkable progress in advancing our hospital's infrastructure and capabilities. Our aggressive modernization plan remains well underway, reflecting our deep commitment to meeting the healthcare needs of Staten Island today and into the future. This includes the expansion of our Cardiac Catheterization Lab and the addition of hybrid technology that will support both neurovascular and cardiovascular care—further enhancing our ability to deliver lifesaving interventions with precision and speed.

Two additional major projects are now in the early stages of development. We are preparing for the expansion and renovation of our Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, ensuring that our tiniest patients and their families receive care in a modern, family-centered environment. In addition, we will soon begin the renovation and expansion of our Adult Psychiatric Unit, strengthening our commitment to comprehensive behavioral health services for those who rely on us most.

Our new cogeneration plant is also nearing completion and is expected to be fully operational within the next several weeks. This state-of-the-art energy system will significantly improve our efficiency, sustainability, and resiliency.

As we move into this next exciting chapter, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each member of our team, as well as to our Board of Trustees and medical staff, for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are shaping a brighter, healthier future for our community.

Thank you for all that you do—every day, for every patient.

Sincerely,

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

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 Merschelle
Tindoy, MD, RN. Dr. Tindoy is a PGY-3 in
the Department of Internal Medicine.
She attained her medical degree from
the University of Santo Tomas Medical
School. She attained her nursing
degree from Rutgers University School
of Nursing. Her hometown is Manila in the
Philippines.



Congratulations to our employees of the month:



Department of Facilities



Information Technology Department

Nearly 25 Year Later, RUMC Remembers 9/11/01 with Ceremony, Dedication to Former RUMC Assistant Vice President







A special prayer was offered for the victims of 9/11/01 and their families

Richmond University Medical Center paid tribute to the victims of the attacks on September 11, 2001, at a ceremony on Thursday, September 11, 2025. Hospital administration, trustees, and staff were joined by members of the NYPD, FDNY, EMS, community leaders, and veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces.

The ceremony included tributes, a wreath laying ceremony, a moment of silence, and reflections from first responders who participated in operations in Lower Manhattan nearly 25 years ago.

Also in attendance were members from chapters of the Blue Knights law enforcement motorcycle organization, Rolling Fire FDNY motorcycle organization, and Rolling Thunder military veterans motorcycle organization. As part of the ceremony, veterans from Rolling Thunder retired and replaced the hospital's American flag and POW/MIA flags, which fly over RUMC's 9/11/01 memorial.

Among the honored guests for the ceremony were New York State
Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo; New York State Assembly Member Michael
Reilly; New York City Council Member
Frank Morano; Capt. Doreen McCarthy from the United States Coast Guard;
FDNY Bureau Chief of Emergency
Medical Services Louis Basso; Patrol
Borough of Staten Island Commanding
Officer, Assistant Chief Melissa Eger; and the commanding officers from all four
Staten Island police precincts.

During the ceremony, the garden around the hospital's 9/11 memorial was dedicated to former Assistant Vice President for Emergency Services William Amaniera. A responder in Lower Manhattan the morning of the attacks, Amaniera organized the hospital's annual ceremony until his retirement in 2024, ensuring the events of that day, and those killed in the attacks, were never forgotten.

"I truly have no words," Amaniera said at the surprise dedication. "I always said I would make sure this ceremony was held each year so that day was never forgotten and after I retired, I would make sure to still help. But this is still overwhelming, thank you."



Amaniera with the plaque bearing his name.



The new plaque with inscription.

BP Fossella Announces Capital Funding for State-of-the-Art Biplane Imaging Technology



RUMC's Cardiovascular Department Chief Francesco Rotatori, MD, FACC; Borough President Fossella; and RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, MPA.

On September 10, Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella visited Richmond University Medical Center to announce \$1.52 million in capital funding he secured for Richmond University Medical Center to acquire state-of-the-art biplane imaging technology for its new vascular institute.

Opening in 2026, RUMC's Joan and Alan Bernikow Heart and Vascular Institute will bring together advanced cardiology and neuroscience services under one unit. Biplane imaging is one of the most advanced interventional technologies available. It uses two rotating cameras, one on each side of the patient, to take simultaneous images. As the cameras move side to side and front to back, they

produce highly detailed images of blood vessels, soft tissue, and blood flow in real time. Biplane imaging is also used to map blood flow through vessels, which helps to find the precise location of disease, malformation, blockages or aneurysms.

"We are incredibly grateful for Borough President Fossella's continued support of both our hospital and the patients we serve," RUMC President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, MPA, said. "All of this is about one thing: meeting the growing need for high quality cardiac and neurological care right here in our community. We are committed to making sure patients can get world-class treatment close to home."

The project expands RUMC's existing Catheterization Suite, which currently treats over 500 cardiac patients annually and has been experiencing exponential growth over the years. In addition to the biplane, the new Institute will feature increased preoperative and holding bays to better accommodate patient volume while improving patient flow and staff services. The existing waiting and reception area will also be refurbished and more centrally located within the suite for better flow and functionality.

The funding secured by the Borough President is included New York City's Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Help for Those Struggling with Addiction

September was National Recovery Month. On September 4, staff from Richmond University Medical Center's Silberstein Clinic came to the hospital's main lobby to provide information on addiction treatment and support services. Located at 1130 South Avenue, inside the Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine, the Silberstein Clinic provides services for individuals 18 and older seeking treatment for substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders.



Counselors and staff share information on addiction services available at the Silberstein Clinic.

Richmond University Medical Center Offering At-Home Cardiac Rehabilitation Program





RUMC's Cardiovascular Department Chief, Francesco Rotatori, MD, FACC.

Devices provided to patients enrolled in the at-home cardio program include a smart watch, blood pressure monitor and cuff, and weight scale.

Thanks to an innovative new program, Richmond University Medical Center is now among the first providers on Staten Island to provide patients with the access to the full benefits of cardiac rehabilitation right from the comfort of their own home.

In partnership with Movn Health, RUMC is now offering at-home cardiac rehabilitation to qualifying patients. The program is covered by most insurances. Patients will be monitored virtually by RUMC cardiologists and a heart care team through devices provided to them, including a smart watch, blood pressure monitor and cuff, and weight scale. The devices are included as part of the program at no extra cost and can be kept after completing the program. Patients will meet weekly with a dedicated care manager to discuss healthy habit goals and track progress based on a set treatment plan developed by their RUMC cardiologist. They will be encouraged to participate in virtual group or individual exercise programs, and enroll in education classes that include topics such as nutrition and wellness.

Designed as a 12-week program, both RUMC and Movn Health track each patient's activities and progress, making changes as needed based on the information collected. Once completed, patients can choose to continue meeting with their care team through Movn Health's maintenance program for up to an additional nine months.

Patients are already experiencing benefits as a result of the program. Joe
Carannante, a survivor of three heart attacks and a stroke, said the ability to perform his rehab at home through the program has made an almost immediate impact. "I enrolled in this cardiac rehab program and I am happy that I did," he said. "My coach Monder is excellent. I felt the program was very informative as far as teaching me how to change my lifestyle with eating better and doing proper exercises to manage my heart rate and regain my strength."

RUMC's Cardiology Department Chief, Francesco Rotatori, MD, FACC, will serve as medical director of the program and oversee all RUMC patients who enroll. Dr. Rotatori has been with RUMC since 2017 and is board certified in cardiovascular disease, echocardiography, internal medicine, interventional cardiology, and nuclear cardiology.

"As physicians, when we care for patients with heart disease, we have multiple tools, including medications or medical devices, but in reality, physical exercise through a cardiac rehabilitation program has been proven to be one of the most effective tools to improve quality and prolong life," Dr. Rotatori said.

Cardiac rehabilitation is an important program for anyone recovering from a heart attack, heart failure, or other heart problem that required surgery or medical

care. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 800,000 people in the United States have a heart attack every year. Studies have found that cardiac rehabilitation helps men and women of all ages with mild, moderate, or severe heart problems. However, some people are less likely to start or finish a cardiac rehabilitation program. CDC studies show that women, especially minority women, are less likely than men to start or complete cardiac rehabilitation. Older adults are also less likely to join a cardiac rehabilitation program because they may think they are unable to do the physical activity because of age, or other conditions that may make exercising harder, such as arthritis.

Cardiac rehabilitation is medically proven to have many short- and long-term health benefits including strengthening the heart after a heart attack, relieving symptoms of heart problems, reducing stress, improving mood, encouraging a more healthy lifestyle, and increasing a person's energy and strength. Studies have also found that cardiac rehabilitation decreases the chance that a person will die in the five years following a heart attack or bypass surgery by about 35%.

RUMC will continue to also offer inperson, on-site cardiac rehabilitation through its Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center, which is located on the main hospital campus at 288 Kissel Avenue in West Brighton.

Fundraiser Benefits Critical Newborns at Richmond University Medical Center



Gregg Zenna, a member of Richmond University Medical Center Foundation's Board of Directors, with his parents Kathleen and Al, and Dianne Powers, also a member of Richmond University Medical Center Foundation's Board of Directors.

On September 8, over 100 guests gathered at Campania Coal Fired Pizza on Hylan Blvd. to show their support for RUMC's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The event was held by the Richmond University Medical Center Foundation, in conjunction with Campania Coal Fired Pizza. The event raised over \$28,000.

"I would like to thank everyone who came out to attend the NICU fundraiser

from the bottom of my heart," Santosh Parab, MD, Chief of Neonatology, said. "Because of your kindness and generosity, we will be able to redesign and expand our NICU and bring hope, comfort, and vital resources to the tiniest and most vulnerable newborns as well as their families."

RUMC's Wayne Zenna NICU is a Level III intensive care unit consisting of 19 intensive-and intermediate-care beds

and six continuing care beds. The unit specializes in the care of high-risk newborns, with some newborns weighing only one pound when born. The NICU's survival rate stands at over 99%, one of the highest survival rates in the country. RUMC's NICU was also one of the first facilities to receive certification from the City of New York in the 1960s, a time when NICUs were still something of a novelty. As a Level III unit, the NICU has a full range of pediatric medical subspecialists, advanced respiratory support such as ventilators, the capabilities to perform minor surgeries, and innovative imaging services.

"It was our absolute pleasure to host this fundraiser at Campania Coal Fired Pizza", said owner Joe LaRocca. "Supporting our community is at the heart of what we do, and we are proud to stand alongside dedicated leaders like (RUMC President and CEO) Dr. Daniel J. Messina in the ongoing effort to build a stronger, healthier Staten Island

Richmond University Medical Center Auxiliary Gifts New Blue Light to Emergency Department

On September 8, the Richmond University Medical Center Auxiliary presented the Department of Emergency Medicine with a new bilirubin blue light for use in the hospital's James P. Molinaro Emergency Department.

Bilirubin is a substance in the blood that forms after red blood cells break down. When a newborn presents to the Emergency Department with high bilirubin levels, blue light therapy is a critical intervention, converting bilirubin into a form that the newborn's body can easily excrete, preventing potential complications from untreated jaundice.

Accepting the new light on behalf of the Department of Emergency Medicine was Department Chair Johnathon LeBaron DO, MBA, FACEP; and Assistant Vice



Department of Emergency Medicine Chair, Dr. Johnathon LeBaron; and Assistant Vice President, Emergency Services, Jean M. Gordon.

President Emergency Services Jean M. Gordon, MSN, RN, FNP-C, CPHQ, CEN.

Dr. LeBaron and Gordon said, "We want to express our tremendous thanks to the members of the Auxiliary for this generous donation to our department. It will make an immediate, live-saving difference for our youngest patients and reassure their families that they are receiving the best care possible when they are with us."

RUMC's Emergency Department is a Level 1 Adult and Level 2 Pediatric Trauma Center capable of treating all emergencies and traumas from adults to newborns.

New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Sarah Acosta — Unit Clerk

Kathiana Alexander-Isaac — Central Sterile Manager

Amanda Barker — RN

Jillian Cancel — Polysonographic Tech

Olivia Chodnicka - Clerical

Veronica Cruz — *Authorization Coodinator*

Michelle Escalante — RN

Daniel Guz — Receptionist

Kimberly Lucchese — Occupational Therapist

Dina Macaluso — Resident Coordinator

Samantha Mendoza — RN

Tanya Millar — Administrative Directory

Thomas Murray — Pharmacy Tech

Lala Oliva — RN

Shaniqua Pace — Registrar

Kayla Marie Parrino — Speech Language Pathologist

Alejandra Perez — Receptionist

Kareem Pfuger — Building Service Worker

Avile Pierre — Nursing Assistant

Adrienne Riccardella — Social Worker

Hunter Seidenrose — RN

Nita Sharma — RN

Watch New Episodes of RUMC Vital Signs

CRUMBS OF TRUTH: UNDERSTANDING CELIAC DISEASE

Celiac disease, an autoimmune condition triggered when a person ingests gluten, affects 1 in 100 people worldwide, but only about 30% of the population is properly diagnosed. In this episode gastroenterologist Vahe Shahnazarian, MD, MPH, FACP, discusses risk factors, symptoms, and treatment and Clinical Nutrition Manager Maria Falzone, MS, RD, CDN, share foods and diet tips for people with celiac disease and gluten intolerance.





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.RUMCSI.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

WHAT IS ONCOPLASTIC SURGERY? REDEFINING BREAST CANCER CARE

Oncoplastic surgery combines cancer removal with reconstructive techniques in the same operation. On this episode, host Meredith Gaskins is joined by Arthy Yoga, MD, RUMC's new breast oncoplastic surgeon. They discuss what oncoplastic surgery is, how it differs from traditional approaches, and what patients here



can expect when they come for care at RUMC's Breast and Imaging Center, located at 1161 Victory Blvd.



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



rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast



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 5 to 11: Mental Illness Awareness Week

October 5 to 11: National Primary Care Week

October 6 to 12: National PA Week

October 12 to 20: Bone and Joint Action Week

October 19 to 25: International Infection Prevention Week

October 19 to 25: National Pharmacy Week

October 19 to 25: National Healthcare Quality Week

October 19 to 25: Respiratory Care Week

October 20 to 24: 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 6: Child Health Day

October 7: Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness Day

October 9: National Depression Screening Day

October 9: World Sight Day

October 10: World Mental Health Day

October 11: 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 16: Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) Action Day

October 17: 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 27: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

October 29: World Psoriasis Day

October 30: World Hypophosphatasia Day

19th Cinnual

Richmond University Medical Center

Foundation



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn • Staten Island, New York

HONORING:



Francesco Rotatori, MD, MBA
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**



