

Wagner College Holocaust Center Honors President & CEO



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RUMC President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina was among the honorees celebrated at the center's annual awards dinner. **Story on page 3.**



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

As we welcome the spring season and the meaningful holidays of Easter and Passover, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to our entire Richmond University Medical Center family.

Easter and Passover remind us of renewal, hope, and compassion — values deeply aligned with Richmond University Medical Center’s mission of Partnering with Patients and Families for Better Health. These sacred seasons call us to serve with empathy, dignity, and respect, to heal the vulnerable, support one another, and strengthen our community through care, service, and humanity.

I begin with heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Trustees and Foundation Board, for your leadership, stewardship, and unwavering commitment to our mission.

To our Medical Staff, and to every member of our clinical, administrative, and support teams, thank you for the exceptional care you provide each and every day to our patients and our community. Your compassion, professionalism, and dedication truly inspire me. The work

you do — often under challenging circumstances — makes a profound difference in the lives of those we serve. Thanks to you, Richmond University Medical Center continues to be a place of healing, hope, and excellence.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve beside such an extraordinary group of individuals. Your commitment to one another and to our patients reflects the very best of who we are as an organization. On behalf of our leadership team, I wish you and your families and friends a joyful, peaceful, and healthy Easter and Passover season.

Remember the Power of One: You Make A Difference.

Sincerely,

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

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 **Soroush Yazdani, MD**. Dr. Yazdani is a PGY-2 in the Department of Psychiatry. He went to medical school at Saint George’s University and hails from Sparks Glencoe, Maryland.



Congratulations to our Employee of the Month:



Gina Ferrara
Respiratory Therapist
Respiratory Care Department

RUMC Joins Community in Honoring Borough's Bravest



RUMC continues its proud tradition of being a Signature Sponsor of the annual FDNY Valor Awards.

Richmond University Medical Center was a proud sponsor of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce's 2026 FDNY Valor Awards, held on March 25. The annual ceremony honors members of the Fire Department of New York City for actions above and beyond the call of duty performed the previous year.

Over 300 people attended the event including community and elected leaders, among them FDNY Fire Commissioner Lillian Bonsignore, former FDNY Commissioner Salvatore Cassano, and Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella.

This year's honorees were:

- **Valor Awards:** Lt. Scott Ettinger from Engine 155 and Firefighter Donald Campbell from Rescue 5.
- **Engine Company of the Year Award:** Engine 161 and its members Lt. Jarrett Howe, Firefighter Alyssa Catherwood, Firefighter Patrick Chow, Firefighter Nicholas Thorgersen, and Firefighter Richard Weaver.
- **Clinical Excellence Awards:** EMS Station 22 paramedics Jason Costello, Daniel Fennell, Michael Strobel, and Stephen Tortoriello.
- **Extraordinary Care Awards:** EMT Vincent Morri and Christopher Parello from EMS Station 23, and from EMS Station 22, Capt. James McCue, Lt. John Quiles, EMT David Taranto, and EMT Kameron Williams

President & CEO Honored by Wagner College Holocaust Center

Over 200 people attended the Wagner College Holocaust Center's 19th annual Community Mitzvah Awards dinner on March 18. Honorees in the Class of 2026 included RUMC President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, MPA, FACHE.

Presented with the Allan Weissglass Civic Leadership Award, the honor held special meaning for Messina who had a long friendship with Weissglass, a mentor and RUMC Trustee until his passing in 2019. "I'm humbled and honored," he said, calling Weissglass "a special friend and mentor."

Also honored alongside Messina was Holocaust survivor Leo Ullman, who received the Courage Award; Rabbi Mendy and Malka Katzman, who were presented with the Spirit of Change Award; Kara Freedman, Wagner College class of 2027, who earned the Next Generation Award; and Dr. Jane and Mark DeFazio, who received the Monroe J. Klein '66 Humanitarian Award.

"Our honorees have positively impacted thousands of lives of New Yorkers, through dedicating themselves to compassion and expressing pride in their own faith and respect for the traditions of others," said Holocaust Center Director Lori R. Weintrob. "Their values and actions as upstanders make them noteworthy role models for the next generation of youth. We need this strong leadership today more than ever to overcome hate and polarization."



(l-r): Wagner College Holocaust Center Advisory Board members Nancy Tricorico, and Kim Avis, RUMC President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina; and Holocaust Center Director Lori R. Weintrob.

Located on the Wagner College campus, the Holocaust Center features a timeline of key moments leading up to, during and after the Holocaust; actual items preserved from that time period, and stories from survivors, some of whom relocated to Staten Island.

RUMC is currently coordinating with Wagner College to have a traveling exhibit from the Holocaust Center visit the hospital sometime later this Spring.

Certified Nurses Day Celebrated throughout RUMC



Every year since 2008, March 19 is celebrated as Certified Nurses Day. The day recognizes nurses who have earned and maintain national board certification in their specialty, highlighting their advanced knowledge, skills, and commitment to patient safety and professional excellence. To celebrate the

day, Nursing Administration, led by Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Christine Mahoney, held a breakfast, inviting all nurses to recognize their colleagues.

Certified Nurses Day was created in 2008 by the American Nurses

Credentialing Center (ANCC) in partnership with the American Nurses Association (ANA). March 19 is also the birthday of Dr. Margretta “Gretta” Madden Styles, a pioneer in nursing certification and the architect of modern nursing credentialing.



Inspiring Future Nurses at Richmond Pre-K Center

Recently, Stephanie Brown, BSN, a nurse in the Labor and Delivery Department met with students at Richmond Pre-K, located on Forest Avenue. In addition to talking about her responsibilities as a nurse, Stephanie read a book to the children and showed the students how to care for a newborn infant.



PS 23 Leadership Day Highlights Student Philanthropy and Leadership



RUMC Senior Public Relations & Marketing Specialist, Meredith Gaskins (right) with student leaders and additional recipients from organizations that will receive the completed Jared Boxes.

Richmond University Medical Center was honored to take part in Leadership Day at PS 23, The Richmond Town School, on March 26. Meredith Gaskins, Senior Public Relations & Marketing Specialist, attended the event alongside Principal Paul J. Proscia and Assistant Principals Renée Mazza and Samantha Carlo.

The celebration highlighted the school's Leadership Team and the extensive work they do throughout the year. Students showcased the many components of their program, including their commitment to service and philanthropy. This year's Jared Box project – featuring boxes filled with toys and games assembled for pediatric patients – stood as a reflection of their compassion and dedication. Some of the boxes the students created will be donated to RUMC.

RUMC extends its sincere appreciation to the PS 23 community for their generosity, leadership, and ongoing efforts to support those in need.

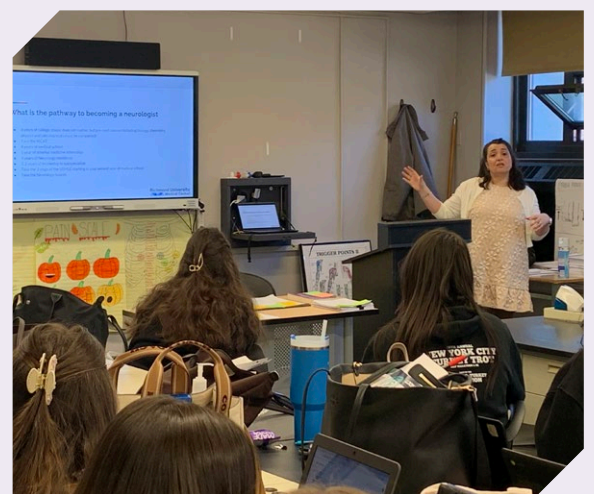
Sharing Neurology Insights with Young Minds

On March 24, board certified neurologist Danelle Gerald-Samara, MD, spoke to medical technology students at Tottenville High School. The students have enrolled in the specialized program because they are hoping to pursue careers in healthcare.

Dr. Samara spoke about her education, why she chose to pursue a career in neurology, shared the latest medical developments in the field, and answered questions from the students. Dr. Samara was asked to speak to the students by the

program's director, Dr. Scott Greenfield, after the students recently completed an in-depth curriculum focused on the neurological system and conditions that can affect how it functions.

RUMC has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Tottenville High School and its med tech program, providing speakers, hospital tours, and educational support for over 5 years.



Dr. Danelle Gerald-Samara discussing the educational steps it takes to pursue a career in neurology with students from Tottenville High School.

Nurses honored by Assemblyman Fall at Ramadan Iftar



On March 12, New York State Assembly Deputy Majority Leader Charles D. Fall recognized the nurses of Richmond University Medical Center for their service to Staten Island with a Ramadan Iftar held at the hospital. Iftar is the meal eaten by Muslims to break their fast at sunset during the month of Ramadan.

"Ramadan is a time for reflection,

compassion, and giving back," Assembly Member Fall said. "Each year at our Annual Iftar, we recognize members of our community who embody those values through their service to others. This year, it was an honor to recognize the frontline nurses at Richmond University Medical Center. Day in and day out, they provide the care and compassion that Staten Island

families rely on in their most difficult moments."

Also attending the event were community and faith leaders as well as hospital administration. The Assembly Member also presented official citations to the nursing staff in acknowledgment of their commitment and contributions to the community.

Bingo for a Good Cause

On March 22, the RUMC Auxiliary held its annual designer purse bingo to benefit its grant program. The program enhances patient care by supporting requests submitted by various departments throughout the hospital.

Major sponsors of the event were Aggressive Energy; The Dr. Theodore A. Atlas Foundation; Beyar's Market; LAZ Parking; Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Messina; Dr. Francesco Rotatori; the RUMC Foundation; Safari Realty;

ShopRite; and Dr. Laura Gasparis Vonfrolio.

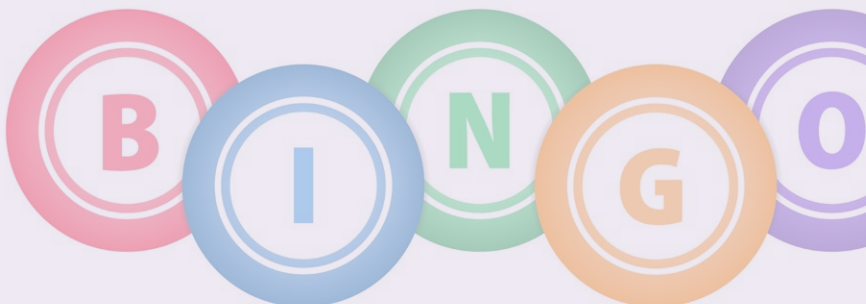
Additional sponsors included Joseph Burt; Casey & Harmon Funeral Homes; Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Erosa; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Forlenza; Matthew Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc.; Dr. Donna Narducci; Northfield Bank; Patricia Parisi; Richmond University Medical Center; and Michele Salomon.



A lucky winner with her new Coach bag.



Holding up the winning numbers.



New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Muhammad Arqam — *Mental Health Tech*
Stefano Cafiso — *Project Manager*
Joseph Cincotta — *RN*
Elizabeth Deutsch — *Clinical Lab Technologist*
Joseph Fiore — *RN*
Joseph Genovese — *RN*
Naquan Glover — *Building Service Worker*
Andrew Hennaway — *RN Float*
Alma Hernandez — *Receptionist*
Denise Hernandez — *Nursing Assistant*
Lukas Hoffman — *EMT Driver*
Jesse Jobin — *Switchboard Operator*
Juliet Kamara — *Nursing Assistant*
Elizabeta Kodra — *Guest Rep*
Heather Leickert — *Polysomnography Tech*
William LoPresti — *HVAC Tec*
Ryan Manuelian — *EMT Driver*

Sierra Martinez — *Registrar*
Joson Mcgee — *RN*
Claudia Mejia — *Nursing Assistant*
Margaret Merriman — *RN*
Brien Mosley — *RN*
Stephanie Mugan — *Sleep/ Neuro Coordinator*
Bianca Nurse — *Nursing Assistant*
Henry Orjuela — *Central Sterile Tech*
Nicholas Pena — *RN*
Tanisha Piette-Antoine — *RN*
Mariana Salazar Flores — *RN*
Robert Sanchez — *Registrar*
Luke Sypniewski — *PACS*
Arun Thomas — *Nurse Practitioner*
Haley Walker — *Nursing Assistant*
Andre Wilson — *VEEG Tech*



April Observances

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

Month-Long:

Adenomyosis Awareness Month
Alcohol Awareness Month
Distracted Driving Awareness Month
Global Child Nutrition Month
Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month
Medicaid Awareness Month
National Autism Acceptance Month
National Cancer Control Month
National Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Month
National Child Abuse Prevention Month
National Donate Life Month
National Facial Protection Month
National Foot Health Awareness Month
National Interprofessional Healthcare Month
National Minority Health Month
National Primary Immunodeficiency Awareness Month
National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month
National Stress Awareness Month
Occupational Therapy Month
Oral Cancer Awareness Month
Parkinson's Awareness Month
Rosacea Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month
Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Month
Sjögren's Awareness Month
Sports Eye Safety Month
Testicular Cancer Awareness Month
Women's Eye Health & Safety Month

Week-Long:

April 5 to 11: Occupational Health Nurses Week
April 5 to 11: Patient Access Week
April 6 to 12: National Public Health Week
April 11 to 17: Black Maternal Health Week
April 13 to 17: National Surgical Assistant Week
April 15 to 22: Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week
April 19 to 25: Medical Laboratory Professionals Week
April 19 to 25: National Infertility Awareness Week
April 19 to 25: Pediatric Sepsis Week
April 20 to 24: Every Kid Healthy Week
April 20 to 27: National Infant Immunization Week
April 24 to 30: World Immunization Week
April 27 to May 1: National Youth Violence Prevention Week

April 27 to May 1: Patient Experience Week

Recognition Days:

April 1: Take Down Tobacco Day
April 2: World Autism Awareness Day
April 6: Bohring-Opitz Syndrome Awareness Day
April 7: World Health Day
April 10: National Donate Life Blue & Green Day
April 10: National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
April 11: World Parkinson's Day
April 12: Radiology Nurses Day
April 14: World Chagas Disease Day
April 16: National Healthcare Decisions Day
April 17: World Hemophilia Day
April 19: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Action Day
April 25: National DNA Day
April 25: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
April 25: World Malaria Day
April 28: APOL-1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day
April 28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work
April 29: Undiagnosed Day



Benefiting
Richmond University Medical Center

**SAVE
THE DATE**

May 18

Richmond County Country Club

HONORING:

Rita Shats, MD, FACOG and
Lenny Shats, Pharm.D. C.Ph., MBA, MS, BCMAS
Recipients of the Jack Sipp Distinguished Service Award

Keith Diaz, MD
Recipient of the Dr. Stanley Stilwell Memorial Award

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

