

Dr. John C. Evanko Appointed to the Helm of Richmond University Medical Center



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Page 4: Dr. Mehmet Oz visits RUMC.

Page 5: Remembering the past through visit by Wagner College Holocaust Center.

Page 8: Trio of physicians honored at annual Jack Sipp Outing.

Board of Trustees taps Dr. Evanko to take the reins of RUMC following retirement of Daniel J. Messina. Story on Page 3.



From the President John C. Evanko, MD, MBA, FACOG

Dear Colleagues,

As we move through the month of June, we recognize a number of meaningful observances, including Father’s Day, Juneteenth, and Pride Month. Each offers an opportunity to reflect on the values of compassion, respect, inclusion, and community

that guide the work we do every day.

Father’s Day offers us an opportunity to recognize and thank the many fathers, grandfathers, and father figures who are part of our RUMC family—and those who support and care for them every day. The vision of our hospital, delivering exceptional care and support for all members of our community, is reflected in the qualities we see in so many of you—commitment, compassion, resilience, and strength. These qualities are evident not only in the care you provide for our patients, but also in the roles you fulfill in your families and communities.

Whether you are a father, expecting a child, honoring a father or father figure, or supporting loved ones in other meaningful ways, your contributions are deeply valued and appreciated.

Juneteenth is a time to recognize an important moment in our nation’s history and to reflect on the ongoing pursuit of equality, dignity, and justice. It reminds us of the importance of fostering a culture of respect and understanding, and of our responsibility to ensure that every individual we serve feels seen, heard, and cared for with compassion.

June is also Pride Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community and to reaffirm our commitment to creating an environment where everyone feels respected, supported, and valued. At RUMC, the diversity of our patients, staff, and community makes us stronger, and it is essential that we continue to foster a culture of inclusion and belonging for all.

I want to offer a sincere thank you to those who will be here on Father’s Day, providing care, covering shifts, and supporting our patients and each other. Your willingness to be present for our community—especially on a day that holds personal meaning—reflects the dedication and professionalism that define who we are as a hospital.

The work we do is not easy, and balancing personal responsibilities with the demands of healthcare requires continued strength and support. I am grateful for the commitment you bring each day—to our patients, to one another, and to our shared mission.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and leadership team, thank you for all that you do. I wish you and your loved ones a meaningful Father’s Day, a reflective Juneteenth, and a Pride Month that celebrates inclusion and community.

With sincere appreciation,

John C. Evanko, MD, MBA, FACOG
President

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 Max Sanginario, DPM. Dr. Sanginario is a PGY 2 in the Department of Podiatry. Dr. Sanginario has a medical degree from New York College of Podiatric Medicine and his hometown is Brooklyn, NY.



Congratulations to our Employees of the Month:



Mary Philip, PA
Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Kerri Albanese, PA
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. John C. Evanko Appointed President of Richmond University Medical Center



RUMC's new president, Dr. John C. Evanko

By Alex Lutz

On May 5, the Board of Trustees for Richmond University Medical Center appointed John C. Evanko, MD, MBA, FACOg, as president of the hospital. He succeeds Daniel J. Messina, PhD, MPA, FACHE, who retired as president and chief executive officer after twelve years at the helm of RUMC.

Dr. Evanko joined RUMC in April 2025 as its executive vice president of Medical Affairs and chief physician executive, where he led clinical operations and oversaw key Patient Safety and Quality initiatives. He also played an integral role in supporting the Graduate Medical

Education program and advancing the growth of the physician enterprise.

"I've truly appreciated the many warm welcomes and conversations I've already had. I look forward to many more to come, and through them, getting to know more of you," Dr. Evanko said in a recent message to RUMC staff. "I'm spending these early days listening, learning, and getting a better understanding of the work you and your colleagues do every day—and I look forward to continuing that in the weeks ahead. As someone who is not from Staten Island, I say with all honesty, there is a strong sense of community here, and it's something I feel the moment I set foot in RUMC."

Prior to joining RUMC, Dr. Evanko served as chief medical officer at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, California, where he improved Leapfrog and CMS STAR ratings, strengthened clinical operations, and successfully supported multiple regulatory and accreditation surveys. He also held the role of chief medical officer at MCIC in Vermont, leading patient safety and risk mitigation initiatives for several large academic medical centers.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Evanko spent many years at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, where he held multiple senior leadership roles, including associate chief medical officer and vice president of Medical Affairs at Columbia University Medical Center, chief medical officer and vice president of Medical Affairs at NYP/Lawrence Hospital, vice president of Perioperative Services at NYP/CUMC, OBGYN division director at NYP/Allen Hospital, and division director of Gynecology at NYP/CUMC.

Dr. Evanko is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He earned his bachelor's of arts from Princeton University, his medical degree from New York Medical College, and completed his internship and residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. He also holds a master's of business administration degree from Columbia Business School and completed both The Medical Professional Liability Leadership Fellowship and The Health Management Academy GE Fellowship.

RUMC Town Hall Marks Leadership Transition and Looks Ahead

By Meredith Gaskins

At a special Town Hall held on May 7, the new president of Richmond University Medical Center, John C. Evanko, MD, MBA, FACOg, was formally introduced to hospital staff by outgoing President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, MPA, FACHE. Messina announced his retirement after 12 years at the helm of RUMC.

Messina reflected on the significance of this next chapter as RUMC navigates an era defined by healthcare transformation, affiliations, and the realities of serving a large Medicaid patient population that continues to grow. He reaffirmed that despite the hospital's current landscape, RUMC's mission remains unchanged.

Sharing personal reflections, Messina spoke about being born at RUMC and the hospital's profound role in his family's history, including how his father's life was saved here at age 20. He closed by thanking staff for their dedication and commitment, underscoring that this moment is about honoring the collective work of the entire RUMC family and not about himself.

Incoming President Dr. Evanko addressed staff with gratitude and enthusiasm, recounting how Messina recruited and mentored him since his arrival last year. He shared his background as a physician and his desire to make a broader impact on healthcare delivery and the Staten Island community.



Dr. John C. Evanko addresses staff for the first time since being appointed president of RUMC.

Both leaders concluded by answering questions from staff, after which staff applauded Messina in gratitude for his over a decade of service.

Dr. Oz Tours RUMC, Meets with Medical Staff, Residents, and Patients



Winners of this year's Patient Safety Symposium explain to Dr. Oz the checklist they created to help expedite the patient discharge process.

By Alex Lutz, Meredith Gaskins, and Cheryl Garber

On May 15, Richmond University Medical Center welcomed Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Dr. Mehmet Oz. Dr. Oz was accompanied by Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis, who arranged the visit.

While at RUMC, Dr. Oz met with medical residents, reviewing several patient safety initiatives implemented over the past year, toured the James P. Molinaro

Emergency Department, and spent a few minutes meeting patients.

RUMC President Dr. John C. Evanko also signed the CMS Make Hospital Food Healthier pledge, which reaffirms RUMC's commitment to align patient food services with the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. As part of this pledge, RUMC will work to ensure that inpatient meals meet individual

nutritional needs and support healing, recovery, and long-term health.

Before leaving, Dr. Oz met with hospital leadership to learn more about the hospital's services to the growing Medicaid population on Staten Island. Also attending the meeting was New York City Health + Hospitals President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Mitchell Katz.



Dr. Oz (center) speaks with Rep. Nicole Malliotakis and RUMC's Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Johnathan Zipkin after touring the James P. Molinaro Emergency Department.

Revenue Cycle Manager Named to Arab America Foundation's 30 Under 30



The Arab America Foundation announced the awardees of its 30 Under 30 Class of 2026. Among them is Sarah Asali, Revenue Cycle Manager at Richmond University Medical Center.

Asali is a graduate of Columbia University with a master's of Health Administration and also a graduate of the University of Illinois-Chicago with a bachelor's of science degree in Biology Pre-Med. She currently oversees revenue cycle management for the Richmond Health Network and leads initiatives that

streamline billing workflows. Beyond her professional work, she led Columbia University's Racial Justice and Equity Board, helping launch a course focused on structural inequities in healthcare. She also mentors students and organizes networking events for healthcare professionals.

Thirty Arab Americans from throughout the country were announced for the class of 2026. Judges from different states reviewed applications anonymously, without identifying names or ethnicity. The awardees are aged 30 or under, excel in their studies, actively work in their communities to help their peers, and demonstrate a commitment to their Arab heritage. The competition was open to all students who live and/or work in the United States and are of Arab descent.

"Our 30 Under 30 awardees represent the promise, talent, and resilience of a new generation of Arab American leaders," said Warren David, co-founder

of the Arab America Foundation and president of Arab America. "From public service and medicine to entrepreneurship, education, the arts, and advocacy, these young professionals are making an impact while proudly embracing their Arab heritage."

The 30 Under 30 program spotlights young professionals who have achieved spectacular success and includes professionals in various fields, including education, law, public service/politics, non-profit, business, entrepreneurship, engineering, medical professionals, artists, entertainers, writers, and media representatives.

The Arab America Foundation is a non-profit educational and cultural organization. The mission of the AAF is to promote Arab heritage and empower Arab Americans; educate Americans about Arab identity and culture; and to connect Arab Americans to each other and to other communities.

Facilities Manager and Staten Island Native, Jack Flanagan, Retires After Years of Service

By Cheryl Garber

After nearly a decade of service to our hospital and the Staten Island community, Facilities Manager Jack Flanagan stepped into retirement on April 10. Over the course of his career at RUMC, Flanagan played a vital role in planning, overseeing, and completing numerous capital and infrastructure projects throughout the hospital.

A lifelong Staten Island resident, Flanagan dedicated both his personal and professional life to service, community, and excellence. Born and raised on Staten Island, he attended PS 22, IS 51, Port Richmond High School, and CUNY-College of Staten Island.

Before joining RUMC, Flanagan spent nearly 30 years building a successful career on Wall Street, including working through the historic events of September 11, 2001. In the fall of 2018, he brought his extensive professional experience to RUMC, joining the Facilities Department. His resume of

accomplishments includes major renovations to the hospital's cafeteria and kitchen, upgrades to the maternity and labor and delivery units, several large-scale flooring initiatives, and modernizing the hospital's operating suites, now part of the Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion that opened in 2024. These projects enhanced both patient care environments and staff workspaces throughout the campus.

"As a facilities manager, Jack did more than maintain hospital buildings—he created safe, efficient, and reliable environments where people can do their best work every day," said Nazmul Khan, director of facilities engineering, design and construction at RUMC.

Among all the projects Flanagan supervised, one held special personal significance for him: the completion of the stone sanctuary surrounding the hospital's Virgin Mary statue in June of 2023. Built from granite stones



Jack and Wendy Flanagan at the unveiling of the sanctuary to the Virgin Mary, which is dedicated to the memory of their son, John.

discarded during construction of the hospital's James P. Molinaro Emergency Department, the sanctuary is enshrined to the memory of his late son, John. Since its completion, the sanctuary, located near Bard Avenue, has become a place of reflection, comfort, and prayer for staff, patients, and visitors, and remains a lasting symbol of faith, remembrance, and healing.

Recognizing Leadership and Impact: Brittany Marcinek Named to SIEDC 20 Under 40

By Alex Lutz

Congratulations to our assistant vice president of Development, Brittany Marcinek, LMSW, who was named to the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation's 20 Under 40 Class of 2026. The award recognizes young professionals making outstanding contributions to the Staten Island community.

A lifelong Staten Islander, Brittany is a dedicated advocate for strengthening healthcare across the borough. With over a decade of experience, she brings a mission-driven approach spanning development, population health, social work, and performance improvement, focused on expanding access, advancing equity, and improving outcomes.

"Brittany has impacted Staten Island on both a professional and personal level," RUMC's vice president for Development, Joseph Burt, said. "Her record of achievement in the healthcare industry is exemplary and worthy of recognition as one of the SIEDC's 20 under 40 leaders."

At RUMC, Brittany has helped secure more than \$100 million in capital and programmatic funding, supporting critical investments in infrastructure, clinical services, and community-based programs. She oversees the hospital's grant portfolio, aligning resources with priorities that address health disparities and promote long-term sustainability. She also plays a key role in cultivating and stewarding strategic partnerships.



Assistant Vice President of Development Brittany Marcinek, LMSW

Previously, Brittany held leadership roles at the Staten Island Performing Provider System (SI PPS) and Mount Sinai Health System. She serves on the Board of Emma's Place and co-chairs Nonprofit Staten Island's Development Affinity Group. She also holds a Certificate in Health Care Strategy from Harvard Business School Online.

Remembering the Holocaust and Vowing to Never Forget

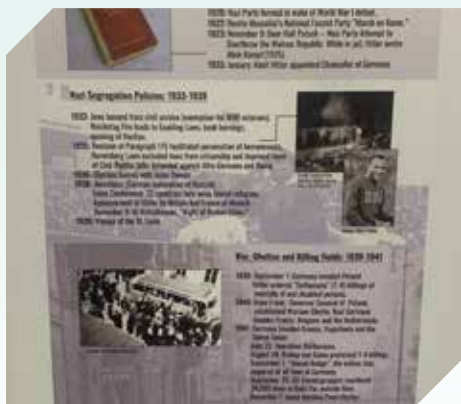


Dr. Lori Weintraub with staff touring the exhibit

On May 6, Richmond University Medical Center welcomed staff from the Wagner College Holocaust Center. A series of displays, artifacts, and presentations captured stories of the atrocities committed by the Nazis and also portrayed stories of courage and perseverance during a period of unimaginable horror and mass murder.



Panels throughout the hospital lobby provided a timeline of key points in the Holocaust.



A single panel showing the rise of fascism and the creation of the concentration camps and the Nazis' "Final Solution."

Professor and Holocaust Center Director Dr. Lori Weintraub provided a presentation on key moments from the beginning of the Holocaust in 1938 to the liberation of the camps by Allied Forces near the end of World War II. Staff and guests were able to examine actual artifacts, including a yellow Star of David, which was worn by Jewish people so they could easily be identified. A video presentation captured firsthand accounts by Holocaust survivors who now live on Staten Island.



Among the artifacts on display was an actual Star of David worn by a Jewish person during the period of the Holocaust.

New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Daniel Tseitlin — *Physician*
 Leah Bove — *Support Staff*
 Bohdan Cheban — *Endo Tech*
 Jermaine Clarke — *Mental Health Tech*
 Kate Daniel — *DRG Coordinator*
 Ronald Davis — *Mental Health Tech*
 James DeNisco — *RN*
 Jessica Duran — *Medical Assistant*
 Michelle Gonzalez — *Receptionist*
 Angela Haxhari — *Social Worker*
 Aung Nyi Nyi Kyaw — *Document Specialist*
 Xhevdet Lleshi — *Building Services*
 Christina Mancusi — *Social Worker*
 Yasmine Mansour — *RN*
 James McAlarney — *Nursing Assistant*

Jennifer Monzinga — *DRG Coordinator*
 Robert Parone — *Food Service Worker*
 Isabellella Pica — *RN*
 Jayla Pinero — *Switchboard*
 Michael Ruzzi — *VP of Security*
 Enza Sivio — *Quality Manager*
 Emily Staniszewski — *RN*
 Stephanie Stuccio — *RN*
 Abigail Sullivan — *RN*
 Alexander Tseyko — *Pharmacist*
 Lauren Veinberg — *RN*
 Clifford Weimer — *RN*
 Fredmalyn Williams — *Nursing Assistant*
 Donnie Williams — *Receptionist*

RUMC Celebrates Its Incredible Nurses!

thank you

National Nurses Month is a month-long celebration in May that honors the vital contributions nurses make to healthcare. It evolved from a single week initiated in 1954 and culminates on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Throughout the week leading up to May 12, events were held including buffet lunches, massages, a scavenger hunt to find Florence Nightingale, and a visit by our therapy dog, Davy Jones. Here are just a few of our nurses who not only provide exceptional care every day but are also the backbone of our hospital.



June Observances

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

Month-Long:

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
 Aphasia Awareness Month
 Cataract Awareness Month
 Men's Health Month
 Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month
 National Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month
 National Employee Wellness Month
 National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month
 National Safety Month
 National Scoliosis Awareness Month
 Pride Month
 PTSD Awareness Month
 Scleroderma Awareness Month

Week-Long:

June 1 to 7: National CPR and AED Awareness Week
 June 8 to 14: Men's Health Week
 June 11 to 17: Certified Nursing Assistant Week
 June 15 to 21: World Continence Week
 June 21 to 27: Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

Recognition Days:

June 2: National Healthcare Recruiter Recognition Day
 June 7: National Cancer Survivors Day
 June 8: World Brain Tumor Day
 June 8: Rare Chromosome Disorder Awareness Day

June 13: Family Health and Fitness Day
 June 14: World Blood Donor Day
 June 15: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
 June 18: Autistic Pride Day
 June 19: World Sickle Cell Day
 June 21: Global MND Awareness Day
 June 21: International Day of Yoga
 June 25: World Vitiligo Day
 June 26: International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
 June 27: National HIV Testing Day
 June 27: National PTSD Awareness Day

RUMC Hosts Annual Jack Sipp Memorial Golf, Tennis and Bocce Outing



RUMC President Dr. John C. Evanko poses with outing honorees Dr. Keith Diaz, Dr. Rita Shats, and Dr. Lenny Shats.

Participants enjoyed a laid-back yet lively atmosphere on the bocce courts.

by Cheryl Garber

On May 18, Richmond University Medical Center held its annual Jack Sipp Golf, Tennis and Bocce outing at the Richmond County Country Club. More than 350 participants attended and took part in golf, round-robin tennis, and a bocce tournament.

During the event, several individuals were honored for their contributions. Dr. Keith Diaz received the Stanley Stillwell, MD, Memorial Award, while Drs. Rita and Lenny Shats were presented with the John F.L. Sipp Distinguished Service Award. RUMC President Dr. John C. Evanko praised the honorees for their dedication and leadership. He also commended each of them for the tremendous impact they have had on

their patients and the community RUMC serves.

Dr. Diaz, a pulmonologist and intensivist, has been with RUMC since 2011 and is currently chief of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine and director of RUMC's lung screening program. A Staten Island native, he has played a key role in advancing respiratory care on Staten Island, including implementing early lung cancer detection programs and helping establish the hospital's Post COVID-19 Care Center, which assisted patients with respiratory-related issues caused by the virus. The center operated from 2021 to 2023. Dr. Diaz has also been recognized for his teaching, public

service, and contributions to community health, and holds the title of Honorary Police Surgeon for the NYPD.

Drs. Rita and Lenny Shats have likewise built distinguished careers at RUMC. Rita is a highly respected OB/GYN known for her leadership, pioneering work in pediatric and adolescent gynecology, and numerous roles within the hospital. Lenny has risen through the pharmacy department to become assistant vice president of Pharmacy Operations, contributing significantly to healthcare leadership and operations while also serving in community and educational roles.



A day of steady swings, great conversations, and memorable moments on the fairway.



Players demonstrated skill, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm throughout the day's matches.



Golfers took to the greens with enthusiasm, making the most of a picture-perfect day outdoors