

Richmond University Medical Center

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RUMC Recertified as Level I Adult and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center



Also inside:

Page 4: RUMC Designated as High Performing Hospital for 5th Consecutive Time

Page 5: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand Tours RUMC NICU, Provides Federal Support

Page 7: Richmond University Medical Center Welcomes New Trustee

*RUMC has successfully renewed its Trauma Center verifications for another three years. **Story on Page 3.***



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

For many families, September feels like a fresh start. As children and young adults head back to school and the first signs of autumn begin to appear, we are reminded that this season is often associated with learning, reflection, and new beginnings. Even in healthcare,

where our work continues uninterrupted throughout the year, September offers a natural opportunity to pause, look back on where we've been, and refocus on the work ahead.

This month also marks the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, a day that remains etched in our nation's memory. For many of us, the events of that day feel as vivid now as they did a quarter century ago. We remember those who lost their lives, those who continue to carry the physical and emotional effects of that tragedy, and the countless first responders, healthcare professionals, and ordinary citizens who demonstrated extraordinary courage in the face of unimaginable circumstances.

Here at Richmond University Medical Center, we understand the lasting impact of service and sacrifice. As healthcare professionals, we are privileged to continue the work of caring for others during their most vulnerable moments. The compassion, resilience, and dedication that define our workforce today reflect many of the same qualities that inspired our nation in the days and months that followed September 11.

September also brings the observances of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, two of the most significant holidays in the Jewish faith. These holy days encourage reflection, renewal, forgiveness, and a commitment to becoming better versions of ourselves. Their messages resonate beyond any single faith tradition and serve as a reminder of the importance of compassion, understanding, and gratitude in our daily lives.

As we embrace the arrival of autumn, I encourage each of us to take a moment to appreciate the meaningful role we play in the lives of our patients, families, colleagues, and community. Whether providing care at the bedside, supporting operations behind the scenes, teaching the next generation of healthcare professionals, or helping patients navigate their healthcare journey, your contributions make a difference every day.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission and to the people we serve. I wish all who are celebrating a happy and healthy New Year, an easy fast, and peace and fulfillment in the season ahead. As families throughout our community prepare for another school year, I wish all students, educators, and parents a wonderful start to the year filled with learning, growth, and new opportunities.

Sincerely,

Dr. John C. Evanko
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
Ali Al-Zuwayny, MD.**

Dr. Al-Zuwayny is a PGY-3 in Internal Medicine. He earned his medical degree from Saint Georges University School of Medicine. His hometown is Baghdad, Iraq.



Providing Hope and Help for Substance Use



On August 31, International Overdose Awareness Day, staff from our Silberstein Clinic and Center for Young Adults provided information about their available services that help people struggling to overcome substance use addiction.

The Silberstein Clinic serves individuals 18 and older who are seeking treatment for substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. The Center for Young Adults exclusively focuses on the treatment of adolescents and young adults ages 12 to 24. Both are located within our Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine at 1130 South Avenue.

RUMC Recertified as Level I Adult and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center

By Alex Lutz

Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) has successfully renewed its Level I Adult Trauma and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center verification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS), reaffirming its position as a leading provider of advanced trauma care on Staten Island. The recertification comes from the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the nation's leading authority on trauma care standards.

"This achievement reflects the incredible commitment of our trauma team, and the vital role Richmond University Medical Center plays in caring for our community," said RUMC President Dr. John C. Evanko. "When a serious injury occurs, families need to know that exceptional care is available close to home. Renewing our Level I Adult and Level II Pediatric Trauma verifications reaffirms our commitment to providing the highest standards of care for patients of all ages while continuing to invest in the people, technology, and programs that help save lives every day."

As the nation's foremost authority on trauma care standards, the ACS awards verification to hospitals that meet rigorous criteria for resources, clinical capabilities, performance improvement, education, research, and patient outcomes. The renewal, which extends through 2029, reflects RUMC's continued investment in advanced technology, highly trained clinical professionals, and comprehensive trauma services designed to provide the highest level of care for the communities it serves.

RUMC was first designated as a Level I Adult and Pediatric Level II Trauma Center in 2013, the first medical facility in New York City to achieve this dual designation.



"This is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to the dedication, expertise, and teamwork of our physicians, nurses, trauma program staff, EMS partners, and support teams," said RUMC's Trauma Medical Director Dr. Vladimir Rubinshteyn. "This recognition demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that our community has access to the highest standard of trauma care close to home."

Trauma centers, like RUMC, provide specialized around-the-clock care for patients suffering serious or life-threatening injuries resulting from accidents, falls, motor vehicle crashes, violence, and other emergencies. RUMC has seen a staggering increase in the number of trauma patients coming to the hospital for care each year. In 2025,

RUMC saw over 2,200 trauma cases, up considerably from about 1,300 patients cared for just four years prior in 2021. Of the more than 2,200 patients seen last year, over 1,700 resulted in admissions to RUMC for extended care. Each year, injuries resulting from falls have been the most constant cause of trauma cases cared for at RUMC.

"Our trauma program is committed to providing evidence-based, patient-centered care that saves lives and improves outcomes," said Trauma Program Director and registered nurse Tara Harrington. "Renewing our ACS verification validates the hard work of our multidisciplinary team and our ongoing focus on excellence in trauma services."

RUMC Secures State Funding to Enhance Mental Health Crisis Care for Staten Islanders

By Cheryl Garber

Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) has been awarded over \$906,000 in New York State funding as part of Governor Kathy Hochul's \$21 million investment to expand and improve crisis mental health services across New York State. RUMC will utilize the support to enhance its Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) with the creation of a dedicated waiting area for children and adolescents experiencing a mental health crisis.

RUMC provides 24/7 psychiatric emergency and inpatient care for Staten Islanders through its CPEP, the borough's only program of its kind. The new youth-focused space is designed to create a more therapeutic and supportive environment for children and teenagers by reducing their exposure to adult patients experiencing acute psychiatric episodes.

"This funding recognizes the critical role RUMC plays in delivering comprehensive behavioral health services on Staten Island," said Dr. Joel A. Idowu, Chair of RUMC's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. "The planned upgrades will enable us to provide a more therapeutic environment for all patients, especially children and adolescents experiencing a mental health crisis."

The separate space will also support clinicians in conducting comprehensive assessments and delivering treatment aimed at stabilizing young patients during a crisis. The enhancements are part of RUMC's ongoing commitment to improving behavioral health services and ensuring that patients receive compassionate, age-appropriate care in a safe and supportive setting.



Dr. Joel A. Idowu, Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

"Mental health care is an essential part of the care we provide to our community," said RUMC President Dr. John C. Evanko. "The creation of a dedicated space for children and adolescents in crisis reflects our commitment to treating every patient with dignity, compassion, and respect. This investment will help us create a more therapeutic environment that supports healing, recovery, and hope for our youngest patients and their families."

U.S. News & World Report Taps RUMC as High Performing Hospital for Heart Failure Care for Fifth Consecutive Year

By Alex Lutz

Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) has once again been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a High Performing Hospital for Heart Failure care, marking the fifth consecutive year the hospital has earned this prestigious designation.

The annual U.S. News & World Report evaluation assessed approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide on measures including patient survival rates, recovery at home after hospitalization, number of patients treated, and other quality indicators. Only 652 hospitals received the High Performing designation, reflecting outcomes that are typically better than

those achieved at other hospitals.

Heart failure affects nearly 7 million Americans and occurs when the heart is unable to pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. While the condition is chronic, advances in diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management have enabled many patients to achieve improved quality of life and better health outcomes.

"This recognition is a reflection of the people behind it, the dedicated healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to care for our patients and support their families," said RUMC President Dr. John C. Evanko. "To be

recognized for the fifth consecutive year speaks to the consistency, expertise, and compassion of our cardiovascular team. It is an honor to provide this level of care to the Staten Island community we are privileged to serve."

RUMC offers a comprehensive range of cardiovascular services, including emergency care, advanced diagnostics, heart failure management, interventional cardiology, cardiac rehabilitation, and ongoing support to help patients manage chronic heart conditions and live healthier lives.



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand Tours RUMC NICU, Provides \$2 Million in Federal Support for Unit Expansion

By Alex Lutz

On August 25, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand toured Richmond University Medical Center's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, which is currently in the midst of major infrastructure work as the first phase in a complete renovation to meet the growing need for the specialized care provided to newborns in need of advanced care. Sen. Gillibrand secured \$2 million in federal support to assist the project, which is anticipated to be completed in early 2027.

"We were honored to welcome Senator Gillibrand to our Wayne Zenna NICU and to thank her personally for her extraordinary support of this project," RUMC President Dr. John C. Evanko said. "Her leadership in securing federal funding is helping us create a state-of-the-art environment where our physicians, nurses, and specialists can continue delivering exceptional care to Staten Island's smallest and most vulnerable newborns. We are grateful for her partnership and her continued commitment to the health and well-being of our community."

The Senator met with hospital leadership and many of the nurses, neonatologists and medical specialists who provide care and support to the



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand with Dr. Santosh Parab, RUMC's Chief of Neonatology, and RUMC President Dr. John C. Evanko.

newborns and their families. RUMC's NICU is a New York State Department of Health designated Level III NICU, a designation that affirms the unit has the expertise, technology, and support services to provide comprehensive care for premature and critically ill newborns. The unit cares for more than 500 newborns annually, including babies born as early as 23 weeks.

The \$10 million expansion project will include 18 private infant care bays, a new isolation room, a renovated nursing station, and an expanded waiting area for families. Additional support for the

project has been secured from private donors as well as funding through the New York City Capital Grants program with the assistance of the Staten Island City Council Delegation and Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella.

"The improvements and expansion of our Level 3 Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to a new, state-of-the-art facility will allow us to continue providing highly specialized, family-centered care to our smallest and most vulnerable newborns," said Dr. Santosh Parab, RUMC's Chief of Neonatology.

One of the first NICUs certified by New York City in the 1960s when neonatal intensive care was still emerging, RUMC serves one of the nation's highest-risk newborn populations and has achieved exceptional outcomes. Over the past five years, the hospital's neonatal mortality rate has been approximately 1 per 1,000 births, significantly lower than the national average of 4 per 1,000 births.

The NICU's medical professionals have experience with a wide range of medical conditions, including congenital heart disease, breathing and feeding difficulties, blood disorders, Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS), hypoglycemia, and jaundice.



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand discusses the layout of the redesigned Wayne Zenna NICU with Vice President for Development Joseph Burt and Dr. Santosh Parab.

Handmade With Love: Seniors Give Back Through Crocheted Hats and Blankets

Members of “Hookettes,” part of the RSVP Americorps, recently donated crocheted hats and blankets to our Theurer Family Health Center, located at 800 Castleton Avenue. The items will be distributed to families visiting the center for its many adult and pediatric services.



Richmond University Medical Center Welcomes New Trustee

By Cheryl Garber

Richmond University Medical Center announced the addition of Robin Lefkowitz to the hospital's Board of Trustees. Her term began on July 1.

“We are pleased to welcome Robin to the Board of Trustees. For more than a decade, she has provided dedicated service on our Foundation Board reflecting an exceptional commitment to the mission and values of our organization,” RUMC President, Dr. John C. Evanko, said. “I am confident that Robin’s experience and perspective will be invaluable as we continue to strengthen our organization and serve the evolving healthcare needs of our community.”

Lefkowitz has nearly 40 years of banking and financial experience. She currently serves as 1st Senior Vice President and Head of New York Retail and Business Development for Columbia Bank New Jersey. For the past 10 years, Lefkowitz previously served on the board of the Richmond University Medical Center Foundation.

“I have been a long-time RUMC Foundation Board member, and I am so proud to have been invited to elevate my role,” Lefkowitz said. “As a resident of Staten Island since 1988, and a north shore resident, living in St. George, RUMC has always been an essential community organization, available to meet the health and safety needs on Staten Island. With all the recent upgrades to the Emergency Department, all the renovations taking place throughout the hospital, and the changes on the horizon to further meet the needs of the Staten Island community, now is an amazing time for me to join the board of trustees.”

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Lefkowitz and her husband Danny moved to Staten Island in 1988. When she is not working or involved in community activities, Robin enjoys traveling and spending time with family, especially her grandson. Robin holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with a minor in Economics from Brooklyn College and a Master of Business



Administration Degree from Wagner College.

“It is an honor to welcome Robin to the RUMC Board of Trustees. She has been a longstanding supporter of RUMC and is an individual of extraordinary personal and professional integrity. She has built broad, deep and important relationships within the Staten Island community, and possesses skill sets, business judgement and experience that are of vital importance to RUMC,” said Timothy C. Harrison, Chair of RUMC’s Board of Trustees. “All of us on the board look forward to serving with — and learning from — Robin and are deeply grateful for her service.”

New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Dominique Amrani — *RN*
Miyuki Anthony — *RN*
Xhemaile Bili — *Ultrasound Tech*
Christina Bondonese — *Radiology Manager*
Tony Curtis — *Nursing Assistant*
Brooke Diaz — *RN*
Anastasia Domenech — *Social Worker*
Amgad Elrashidy — *Security Guard*
D'Mari Fuller — *Mental Health Tech*

Naomi Guevara — *Nursing Assistant*
Alexa Hagan — *RN*
Alicia Jones — *Admin Assistant*
Victoria Lombardi — *LMHC*
Rebecca Maldonado — *HR Generalist*
Joseph Mannitta — *RN*
Alae Mito — *RN*
Anthony Monagas — *Respiratory Therapist*
Aiko Loren Ramos — *Rehab Manager*

Janet Reaves — *Unit Clerk*
Emma Rice — *RN*
Carlandra Rivers — *Nursing Assistant*
Maya Rock — *Receptionist*
Kristine Roper — *Nursing Assistant*
Bosun Wu — *Respiratory Therapist*
Marina Yacoub — *Pharmacist*

September Observances

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

Month-Long:

Baby Safety Month
Blood Cancer Awareness Month
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Food Safety Education Awareness Month
Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month
Healthy Aging Month
ITP Awareness Month
National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month
National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month
National Cholesterol Education Month
National Deaf Awareness Month
National ITP (Platelet Disorder) Awareness Month
National Pediculosis/Head Lice Prevention Month
National Recovery Month
National Sickle Cell Awareness Month
National Vascular Disease Awareness Month
Newborn Screening Awareness Month
Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
Pain Awareness Month
Peripheral Artery Disease Awareness Month
Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month
Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
Reye's Syndrome Awareness Month
Sepsis Awareness Month
Sexual Health Awareness Month
Sports Eye Safety Month
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month
Urology Awareness Month
World Alzheimer's Month

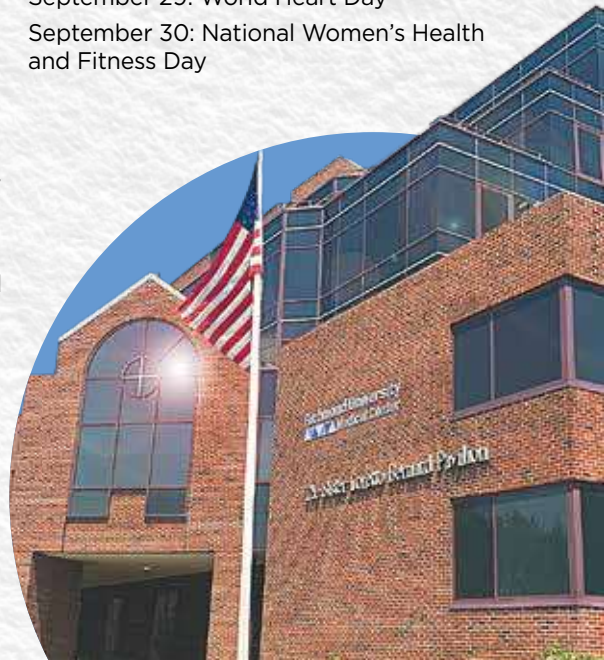
Week-Long:

September 1 to 7: National Clinical Nurse Specialist Recognition Week
September 6 to 12: National Suicide Prevention Week
September 6 to 12: Vascular Nurses Week
September 8 to 14: Sexual Health Week
September 12 to 18: Neonatal Nurses Week
September 13 to 19: National Assisted Living Week
September 13 to 19: Folic Acid Awareness Week
September 14 to 18: Fungal Disease Awareness Week
September 14 to 18: Malnutrition Awareness Week
September 15 to 21: World Mitochondrial Disease Week
September 20 to 26: National Rehabilitation Awareness Week
September 21 to 25: Fall Prevention Awareness Week

Recognition Days:

September 4: World Sexual Health Day
September 7: World Duchenne's Awareness Day
September 8: Health Empowerment Day
September 8: World Physical Therapy Day
September 9: International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day
September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day
September 13: National Celiac Disease Awareness Day
September 13: World Sepsis Day
September 15: World Lymphoma

Awareness Day
September 16: Get Ready for Flu Day
September 17: World Patient Safety Day
September 18: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day
September 19: Aortic Dissection Awareness Day
September 19: National Concussion Awareness Day
September 20: Usher Syndrome Awareness Day
September 21: World Alzheimer's Day
September 22: Falls Prevention Awareness Day
September 25: World Lung Day
September 25: International Ataxia Awareness Day
September 25: World Pharmacists Day
September 26: Mesothelioma Awareness Day
September 26: World Contraception Day
September 28: World Rabies Day
September 29: World Heart Day
September 30: National Women's Health and Fitness Day



RUMC Honors the Legacy of September 11 with Annual Remembrance Ceremony



By Meredith Gaskins

Richmond University Medical Center held its annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony on Friday, September 11, 2026, at the RUMC 9/11/01 Memorial in the rear of the employee parking lot. The ceremony brought together employees, community members, elected officials, military veterans, and representatives from FDNY, NYPD, and Emergency Medical Services to honor the lives lost and the heroes who emerged in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The program began at noon, offering attendees a moment of reflection and remembrance. Speakers recognized the profound impact of September 11 on

our nation, our community, and the healthcare professionals, first responders, and service members who continue to carry its legacy forward.

A highlight of the ceremony was the ceremonial Changing of the Colors performed by the Rolling Thunder Veterans Motorcycle Club of Staten Island. Their moving tribute paid respect to those who lost their lives and to the countless individuals who answered the call to serve during one of the nation's darkest days. The presentation served as a powerful reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and resilience that define the American spirit.

Throughout the ceremony, participants paused to remember the victims, celebrate the bravery of first responders, and acknowledge the enduring strength of families and communities affected by the tragedy. The presence of community leaders and public safety representatives underscored the shared commitment to ensuring that the events of September 11 are never forgotten.

The annual Remembrance Ceremony remains a cherished tradition at RUMC, ensuring that the memories of those we lost, the heroes who served, and the lessons of September 11 are carried forward for future generations.