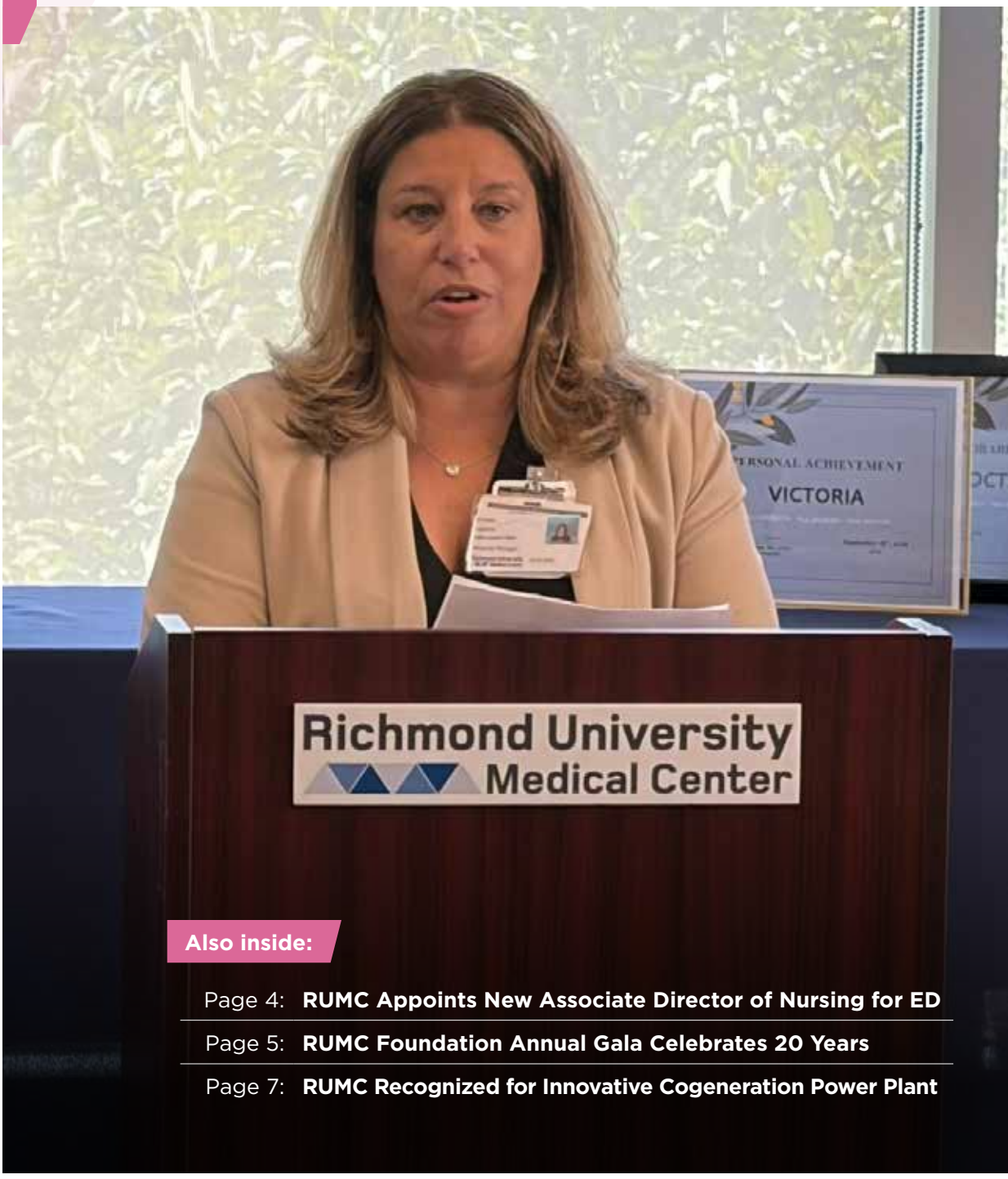
Richmond University Medical Center

CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 2026 • RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER • WWW.RUMCSI.ORG

Celebrating Recovery, Resilience and Hope



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RUMC's Silberstein Clinic recognizes patients for their courage and progress as they achieve milestones on their recovery journeys. ***Story on Page 3.***



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

As we settle into the fall season, October provides an opportunity to reflect on how we can continuously improve the care we provide for our patients and community.

One area where every member of our team plays an important role is reducing patient length of stay. While every patient's needs are unique, helping patients safely return home or transition to the next level of care as efficiently as possible produces meaningful benefits for both our patients and our hospital.

Shorter, appropriate lengths of stay can reduce the risk of hospital-acquired infections, minimize deconditioning and other complications associated with prolonged hospitalization, improve patient satisfaction, and help patients return sooner to the comfort of their homes and families. At the same time, reducing avoidable delays increases bed availability, improves emergency department throughput, decreases wait times for admission, and ensures timely access to care for other patients in need.

I am encouraged by the progress we have made over the past several months. Through the collective efforts of our physicians, nurses, case managers, therapists, support staff, and countless others, we have reduced patient length of stay and improved the efficiency of care delivery across our organization. These achievements demonstrate what is possible when we work together with a shared focus on patient-centered care. However, our work is far from complete. Sustaining and building upon these gains will require continued collaboration, accountability, and a commitment to removing barriers that can delay a patient's transition home or to the next level of care.

As healthcare organizations nationwide face increasing demands and limited resources, our focus on safe, efficient, high-quality care has never been more important. Every unnecessary day in the hospital represents an opportunity to improve outcomes, enhance the patient experience, and increase our capacity to serve the Staten Island community. By remaining focused on timely care coordination and effective discharge planning, we can continue moving in the right direction.

Thank you for all you do each day to help our patients heal, recover, and return home safely. Your dedication is making a difference for our patients, their families, and our community.

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 Edip Katayifci, MD. Dr. Katayifci is a PGY-4 in the Radiology Department. He earned his medical degree from Sapienza Universita Di Roma International Medical School. His hometown is Antakya, Turkey.

Congratulations to our Employee of the Month:



Jesse Jobin
Lab Aide
Department of Laboratory Medicine

Celebrating Recovery, Resilience and Hope at Silberstein's Patient Recognition Event



By Meredith Gaskins

On September 16, Richmond University Medical Center's Silberstein Clinic hosted a special Patient Recognition Event celebrating the courage, perseverance and progress of patients reaching milestones on their recovery journeys.

The gathering was a moving reminder of what recovery can look like when patients are surrounded by compassionate care, encouragement, and a strong support system. Throughout the program, therapists and patients shared heartfelt remarks and personal reflections about the recovery journey. Hearing those experiences firsthand made the event especially meaningful and underscored the tremendous strength and determination behind every step forward.

The program opened with remarks from Silberstein Clinic Manager Joanne Asparro, followed by Dr. Prajaka Vagal, Assistant Vice President of Behavioral Health, and Peer Supervisor, Stephen Nico, who spoke about peer advocacy and support. Clinical staff then had the opportunity to introduce and recognize over a dozen patients, highlighting their individual accomplishments and progress.

One of the most powerful aspects of the afternoon was hearing from both sides of the therapeutic relationship. The reflections shared by therapists spoke to the privilege of supporting patients through recovery, while the patients' own words offered an inspiring testament to resilience, personal growth and hope.

Reflecting on the significance of the event, Peer Supervisor Stephen Nico shared, "You are greater than whatever is trying to overcome you. For me, this event is about watching our recovery community come together and seeing firsthand the strength that exists when people support one another. It is a powerful reminder that, at the end of the day, recovery can and does prevail."

More than a recognition ceremony, the event was a celebration of people and possibilities. It demonstrated that recovery is not simply a destination, but a journey built through courage, trust, perseverance and the support of those who walk alongside each patient.

RUMC's Silberstein Clinic provides outpatient treatment for individuals ages 18 and older experiencing substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. Licensed by the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), the clinic brings together licensed clinicians, credentialed substance use counselors, medical and psychiatric professionals, and peer advocates to provide individualized, person-centered treatment. Through services including individual and group psychotherapy, family therapy and education, case management and other therapeutic supports, the clinic works to empower patients and help them build a strong foundation for sustained recovery.

RUMC Appoints Fallon Franco as New Associate Director of Nursing for Emergency Department



Fallon Franco, MSN, RN, Associate Director of Nursing — Emergency Department

By Meredith Gaskins

Richmond University Medical Center has announced the promotion of Fallon Franco, MSN, RN, to the position of Associate Director of Nursing for its Emergency Department. Franco is a native Staten Islander who has been caring for patients at RUMC since 2016.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to step into the role of Associate Director of Nursing for the Emergency Department," Franco said. "RUMC has played such an important role in both my personal life and my nursing career, which makes this promotion especially meaningful to me. I'm excited to continue working alongside our incredible Emergency Department team as we provide exceptional care to the community we serve,"

Franco began her career in medical-surgical/oncology nursing before making the transition to emergency nursing. Since joining RUMC in 2016, Franco has steadily taken on greater responsibilities, serving as a Staff Nurse, Assistant Nurse Manager, Nurse Educator and Clinical Nurse Supervisor.

"Fallon has consistently demonstrated the clinical expertise, leadership and commitment to patient care that are essential in a fast-paced Emergency Department," said Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President Christine Mahoney, DNP, RN, AGACNPBC, NEA-BC, CCRN. "Her growth within RUMC is a reflection of her dedication to our patients, her colleagues and the Staten Island community. I am confident Fallon will continue to strengthen our Emergency Department and support our nursing team in this important leadership role."

Franco's professional development has been complemented by a strong commitment to nursing education. Franco earned associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing from CUNY-College of Staten Island and later earned a Master of Science in Nursing Leadership and Management from Western Governors University. That education, combined with years of clinical and leadership experience, has helped shape a leadership philosophy centered on staff development, accountability, fairness and high-quality patient care.

A lifelong connection to Staten Island and the neighborhood surrounding the hospital also helped inspire Franco's path into nursing. Franco's mother was also an Emergency Department nurse, while the compassionate care her grandfather received from RUMC nurses during the final months of his life following a lymphoma diagnosis left a lasting impression that steered her to career as a nurse, serving the community she calls home.

Giving Tiny Patients a Stronger Start: Fundraiser Benefits Critical Newborns at Richmond University Medical Center

By Cheryl Garber

On Monday, September 21, the RUMC Foundation hosted its 2nd annual fundraiser to benefit the Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The event was held at Campania Coal Fired Pizza on Hylan Boulevard.



Members of the Zenna family and guests showing their support.

The event brought together community members, supporters, and advocates dedicated to helping provide exceptional care and support for the hospital's tiniest and most vulnerable patients and their families. The generosity of attendees and sponsors will help ensure that newborns requiring specialized medical care, along with their families, continue to receive the compassionate, high-quality support they depend on during some of life's most challenging moments. In his welcome remarks, RUMC President Dr. John Evanko recognized and thanked the Zenna family for their leadership gift.

"The NICU renovation project is one of our hospital's highest strategic priorities, and the RUMC Foundation Board is fully supportive of this important initiative," shared Joseph Burt, RUMC's Vice President for Development.

RUMC's NICU is a New York State Department of Health designated Level III unit providing comprehensive, family-centered care for more than 500 premature and critically ill newborns annually. The unit serves one of the nation's highest-risk newborn populations and has achieve exceptional outcomes. Over the past five years, the NICU's mortality rate has been approximately 1 per 1,000 live births, significantly lower than the national average of 4 per 1,000 live births.

The venue for the event, like last year, was provided by owner Joe LaRocca.

An Evening in Emerald: RUMC Foundation Annual Gala Celebrates 20 Years of Healing, Hope, and Generosity

The Richmond University Medical Center Foundation's 20th Annual Gala marks a significant milestone: celebrating two decades of philanthropy, partnership, and commitment to advancing healthcare for the Staten Island community. This year's celebration will be held on Saturday, November 7 in Nicotra's Ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn. Festivities begin at 6:30 PM.

This year's honorees are Dr. Svetoslav Bardarov, RUMC's Chair of Clinical Laboratories; and longtime Foundation Board Member and Chair of the RUMC Capital Campaign Project, Dom Famulari.

"On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I am honored to congratulate this year's distinguished honorees, whose leadership, dedication, and service embody the spirit of our mission", said RUMC Foundation Board President, Robert Urs.



About Dom Famulari

Dom Famulari is the founder and president of Tillman Brokerage Inc., a leading property and casualty insurance agency. A graduate of St. Francis College with a Bachelor of Science degree, Dom is devoted to his family, including his wife, Barbara; their daughter, Dr. Stephanie Famulari; son-in-law Jon Fundaro; and granddaughters Avery and Addison.

Throughout his professional and personal life, Dom has been deeply committed to serving the Staten Island community, holding leadership roles with organizations such as Eger Nursing Home, Camp Good Grief, the Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island, Richmond County Country Club, and Moore Catholic High School Family Association. His community service has earned him numerous honors, including the Richmond University Medical Center John F.L. Sipp Distinguished Service Award, the Wagner College DaVinci Society Community Service Award, and the Eger Nursing Home Tribute Couple Award.



About Dr. Bardarov

Dr. Svetoslav Bardarov is a distinguished physician-scientist, educator, and healthcare leader whose career has been defined by excellence in diagnostic medicine, laboratory innovation, and academic scholarship. As Chair of Clinical Laboratories at Richmond University Medical Center, he oversees more than two million diagnostic tests annually while leading multidisciplinary teams dedicated to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care. Board-certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and Cytopathology, Dr. Bardarov has been a pioneer in integrating digital pathology, virtual microscopy, and artificial intelligence into clinical practice, helping advance precision medicine and laboratory efficiency.

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WHAT DOES A GERIATRICIAN ACTUALLY DO? AND WHEN SHOULD YOU SEE ONE?

RUMC CONNECTIONS

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

rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast



RUMC Recognized for Innovative Cogeneration Power Plant



Dr. Jonathan Zipkin and RUMC Facilities Director Nazmul Khan accepting the Felix Gilroy Green Genesis Award from SIEDC leadership and members of the Gilroy family.

By Alex Lutz

Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) was a recipient of the Felix Gilroy Green Genesis Award in recognition of the hospital's leadership in sustainability, energy efficiency, and resiliency. The award was presented by the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC) at its annual Forum for a Sustainable Future: Green Genesis Mixer, held at the Staten Island Zoo on September 29.

The Felix Gilroy Green Genesis Award honors organizations whose innovation and commitment to sustainability are helping create a greener and more resilient Staten Island. RUMC was recognized for its on-site cogeneration power plant, an advanced energy system that simultaneously produces electricity and thermal energy from a single fuel source. The technology improves energy efficiency, reduces emissions and operating costs, and enhances the hospital's ability to remain operational during power disruptions and emergencies.

"As both a pediatrician and Chief Operating Officer for Richmond University Medical Center, my world is shaped through the lens of creating a brighter and sustainable future for ourselves and our children on the order of decades, which is why I am so proud that we constructed a CoGen facility at RUMC," Dr. Jonathan Zipkin said accepting the award. "Building this facility is RUMC's commitment to the future of this community; being thoughtful stewards of our resources; and allowing us to continue resiliently serving patients even during emergencies. On behalf of all of the amazing healthcare heroes at RUMC, thank you to the SIEDC. We remain proud to serve this island, and committed to leaving it healthier, stronger, and more resilient for generations to come."

The award is named in honor of the late Felix Gilroy, a longtime SIEDC board member and legal counsel who championed sustainable economic growth and environmental preservation on Staten Island. Gilroy was a strong advocate for the creation of a green zone along the borough's West Shore and believed in the collective responsibility to protect the Island's natural resources for future generations.



The Felix Gilroy Green Genesis Award

New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Antonette Balatero — *RN*
Imanol Bello — *Receptionist*
Stephanie Bunoso — *Social Worker*
Daniel Byrnes — *Unit Clerk*
Cristina Calvijo — I*T Desktop Analyst*
Giavanni Caroluzzi- Hernande — *Health Care Educator Coor*
Ardi Chiche — *Medical Assistant*
Cara Chrystal — *Ultrasound Tech*
Carly Cogan — *Guest Rep*
Erick Cruz — *Nursing Assistant*
Edin Dencic — *Building Service Worker*
Ilham Fennane — *Nursing Assistant*
Abigail Grandstaff — *RN*
Tameika Harris - Brown — *Medical Assistant*
Olivia Hillery — *RN*
Christopher Imperatrice — *Program Supervisor*
Marietta Laurella — *Receptionist*
Joshua Lynch — *Receptionist*
Mary Martinez Nunez — *Receptionist*
Samah Mouna — *Classroom Sub*
Kayla Mule — *Pharmacy Tech*
Briana Pecoraro — *Receptionist*
Jade Perez — *RN*
Ted Pierre - Louis — *Respiratory Therapist*
Gabriella Rosado — *Receptionist*
Arabella Tabaquero — *Respiratory Therapist*
Ihasani Thomas — *RN*
Carolina Torres — *RN*
Charlene Vincent — *Unit Clerk*
Agatha Wysoczanski — *RN*

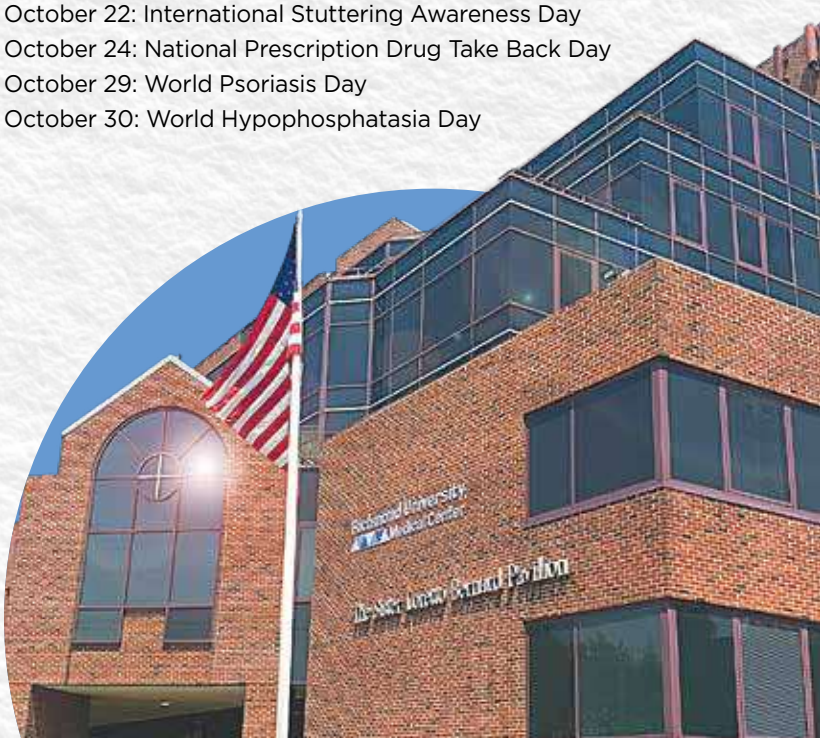
October Observances

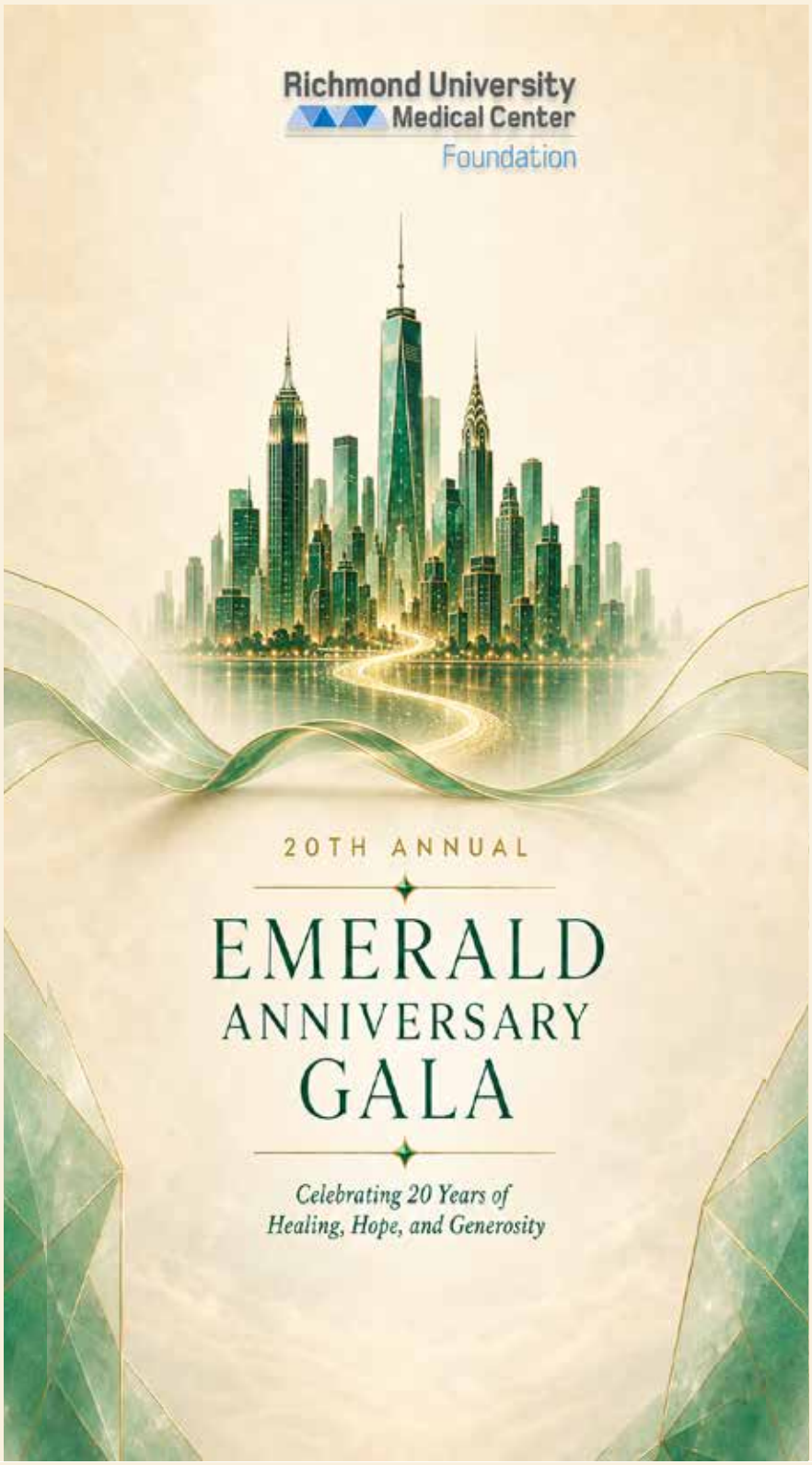
Please join us in acknowledging the following health-related observances for the month of October:

Month-Long:
American Pharmacists Month
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
Raynaud's Awareness Month
Spina Bifida Awareness Month
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month

Week-Long:
October 4 to 10: Mental Illness Awareness Week
October 4 to 10: National Primary Care Week
October 6 to 12: National PA Week
October 12 to 20: Bone and Joint Action Week
October 18 to 24: International Infection Prevention Week
October 18 to 24: National Healthcare Quality Week
October 18 to 24: Respiratory Care Week
October 19 to 23: Medical Assistants Recognition Week
October 19 to 23: National Health Education Week
October 23 to 31: Red Ribbon 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 8: National Depression Screening Day
October 8: 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 14: Emergency Nurses Day
October 15: National Latino AIDS Awareness Day
October 15: World Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day
October 16: Restart a Heart 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 22: International Stuttering Awareness Day
October 24: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
October 29: World Psoriasis Day
October 30: World Hypophosphatasia Day





SAVE THE DATE

November 7th, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn

Staten Island, New York

HONORING

Dom Famulari

President, Tillman Brokerage Inc.;
Member, Foundation Board of Directors,
Capital Campaign Chair

and

Asst. Professor, Svetoslav Bardarov, MD

Chair, Department of Laboratory Medicine

SCAN FOR SPONSORSHIP AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

visit www.rumcsi.org/gala or contact Gina Ferreri at 718.818.2106

Formal invitation to follow