



**TO:** University Senate

**FROM:** William Wertheim, MD, MBA  
Interim Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine

**DATE:** December 4, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Interim EVP Report

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## ACADEMIC UPDATES

### **Renaissance School of Medicine and Black Men in White Coats Host Youth Summit**

The Renaissance School of Medicine, in collaboration with Stony Brook's Black Men in White Coats chapter, hosted the [Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit](#) on November 16. Welcoming more than 500 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade learners, educators, parents, chaperones and community leaders from across Suffolk, Nassau, and New York City, the summit included hands-on activities, panels and networking opportunities with Stony Brook physicians and medical students, as well as faculty and administrators from the School of Health Professions and School of Social Welfare. Initial feedback from teachers, parents and our healthcare professionals has been incredibly positive, with many of them saying they look forward to participating again at the next summit. Special thanks go to Drs. Jedan Phillips and Wilfred Farquharson, Black Men in White Coats' inaugural chapter president and co-founder Marquise Soto (MS2), Community Relations Representative Erika Karp and Marketing Lead Lorraine Botti for organizing a tremendously successful event.

### **SBM Schools awarded AMA Grant to Standardize BP Measurement Training for Students**

Several Stony Brook Health Sciences programs have been selected to participate in a new American Medical Association (AMA) initiative to standardize BMP training. Training future healthcare professionals how to consistently take accurate blood pressure measurement is an important aspect to monitoring patients' blood pressure. Stony Brook is one of five institutions nationwide to receive a grant from the AMA to begin the training module during the 2023-24 academic year. An interdisciplinary team of faculty from the Renaissance School of Medicine, the School of Nursing and the School of Health Professions' Physician Assistant Program are involved in the training via the grant.

### **School of Social Welfare and Program in Public Health Host Community Fundraiser**



The School of Social Welfare partnered with the Southold and Greenport libraries, along with Stony Brook Medicine and the School of Public Health's Healthy Library Program to host a Community Block Party to benefit community members. Organizations included Community Solidarity, SSW's Undergraduate Social Welfare Alliance, and Phi Beta Alpha Honor Society. The block party provided food distribution, and resources from OLA, the Southold School District, Suffolk FEMA, the Renaissance Stony Brook School of Medicine, and Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital. Social work interns provided social work services and voter registration. Community members were able to obtain free flu and COVID vaccines and obtain blood pressure screenings and related information.

### **School of Nursing Conducts Heart Screen NY Community Health Program**

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner students and faculty showcased their dedication to the local community through the bi-annual "Heart Screen NY" program this past October, which provides valuable training for healthcare professionals to learn cardiovascular screening and interpretation while raising awareness about warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. Screenings—which included Heart Health Survey, blood pressure checks, physical examinations, ECGs, and on-site echocardiograms when necessary—were administered to 350 students at Centereach High School. All findings were meticulously reviewed by experienced cardiologists and physicians specializing in cardiac screenings. Faculty members Marybeth Heyden, Kathy Culver, Allison Hotze, and Maria Milazzo, along with alumni Gabriella Romano and Kerrin Beedenbender and current FNP and PNP students participated in the event.

### **School of Social Welfare Faculty Awarded HHS Grant**

School of Social Welfare Assistant Professor Dr. Zachary Morris and a team of researchers were awarded a three-year Field Initiated Research Project grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Morris completed the design and fielding an Understanding America Study panel survey covering out-of-pocket costs and unmet needs for disability-related goods and service experienced by people with disabilities in the U.S. The survey is the first of its kind and one of the most comprehensive surveys of the adult population with disabilities in the U.S.

### **Renaissance School of Medicine Faculty Recognized**

Dr. Adam Gonzalez, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Behavioral Health, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at the RSOM, was among 11 Hispanic/Latinx leaders and allies selected as fellows for SUNY's 2024 Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI) class. The HLI is a six-month hybrid experience designed to identify, develop and recruit, and ultimately support, retain and foster the success of Hispanic/Latinx leaders and their allies at the University President and President's Cabinet level.



Six endowed RSOM faculty members were [formally installed and recognized](#) during an investiture ceremony at the Charles B. Wang Center Theater on Nov. 6. They include:

- Olga Aroniadis, MD, MSc, FACG — Svetlana Koroleva Endowed Professor in Gastroenterology
- Thomas Diacovo, MD — Knapp Chair in Pediatrics
- Lilianne Mujica-Parodi, PhD — Baszucki Endowed Chair in Metabolic Neuroscience
- Styliani-Anna E. Tsirka, PhD — Miriam and David Donoho Distinguished Professor
- James A. Vosswinkel, MD, FACS — Lillian and Leonard Schneider Endowed Chair in Trauma Surgery
- William A. Wertheim, MD, MBA — Endowed Chair in Graduate Medical Education

#### **School of Health Professions Faculty Win NYSSPA Poster Competition**

School of Health Professions faculty Jillian O'Brien and Kristin Thomson, both clinical assistant professors in the physician assistant program, won the NYSSPA Poster Competition in the category of Educational Research for their study, *Examining Social Determinants of Health and the Opioid Use Crisis: Improving Health Professions Student's Knowledge and Empathy*.

#### **School of Dental Medicine Hosts Dental Educators Day**

Driven by the shortage of dental school faculty in New York and across the United States, Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine hosted its inaugural Dental Educators Day. The event was held in conjunction with World Teachers' Day and will be celebrated at Stony Brook on the first Thursday in October each year. The goal is to inspire students to consider a career in dental education and to encourage other dental schools in the US and around the world to hold similar forums to encourage this career pathway.

#### **Center for Healthy Aging Hosts Fall Research Symposium**

The Center for Healthy Aging hosted a symposium covering research and funding opportunities in healthy aging, including updates from two recent Center for Healthy Aging pilot grant awardees. Speakers included Vishwa Deep Dixit, Director of the Yale Center for Research on Aging.

#### **Renaissance School of Medicine Department Transitions/Additions**

Dr. Husein D. Foda, Professor of Medicine, has joined Dean Peter Igarashi's leadership team as Associate Dean for VA Affairs. Dr. Foda will oversee the RSOM's essential relationship with the Northport VA Medical Center. His new responsibilities include co-chairing the Affiliation Partnership Council (Dean's Committee), facilitating bidirectional communication with the



VA-based faculty, assisting with joint faculty recruitment, and augmenting joint research, clinical and educational programs.

### **Respiratory Care Faculty Drowsy Driving Program Featured in NYS DMV News Release**

A New York State Partnership Against Drowsy Driving (NYPDD) press release reminding drivers to be aware of the dangers of drowsy driving during daylight saving time featured advice from Lisa Endee, Clinical Associate Professor of Respiratory Care. The release showcased resources from [StopDrowsyDriving.org](https://stopdrowsydriving.org), a collaboration between subject matter experts from the School of Health Professions, the Governors Highway Safety Association, NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, and National Road Safety Foundation.

### **Renaissance School of Medicine Access Governance Committee Updates**

The Access Governance Committee has continued developing and implementing strategies for improving access initiatives across Stony Brook Medicine. This includes implementing a thorough roadmap and developing access governance throughout SBM, as well as establishing a universal definition and expectations of clinical FTE. The Committee is also standardizing departmental policies re: vacation requests, conferences, management of bump schedules and other areas, and is reviewing templates and schedules for access optimization. Additionally, they are in the process of developing an enterprise-wide contact center, centralizing physician recruitment, and improving institution-wide staffing support modules, as well as highlighting the award recently presented by Vizient for SBM's ambulatory quality and access.

### **Applied Health Informatics Students Win AvoMD AI Clinical Pathways Hackathon**

A team of students from the School of Health Professions program in Applied Health Informatics won the [AvoMD AI Clinical Pathways Hackathon](#). Alyssa Sorensen, Beckie Zheng, Eugene Hsiung, Haley Yu, Helen Zheng, Jessica Chan, Joyce Lin, Mint Suttiprinyanon, Sean O'Sullivan and Susan Chen used AvoMD's AvoBuilder no-code/low-code tool to create a [general discharge checklist](#) designed to assist healthcare providers in discharging post-op patients.

### **School of Social Welfare Launches Revamped Academic Program**

The School of Social Welfare's newly revised PhD program is accepting applications for the Fall 2024 semester. SSW has developed a cutting-edge curriculum to train and mentor the next generation of leaders in social work with a specific focus on the social determinants of health. Learn more about the newly revised program on its updated [admissions website](#).

### **School of Health Professions Offers Lecture on Tick-Borne Disease**



Gerald Simons, Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Education and member of the Medical Advisory Panel of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital's Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center, offered a lecture on the types of diseases that are carried by different species of ticks found on Long Island, the methods of prevention, and the management of a tick bite.

### **RSOM Teaching Series: Start a Teaching Renaissance 12/15/2023**

The offices of Undergraduate Medical Education and Faculty Affairs continue to co-sponsor their "RSOM Teaching Series: Start a Teaching Renaissance," a once-monthly virtual workshop that focuses on a teaching pedagogy or instructional technology topic. The next installment in the series is "Overview of CBase Audience Response Session," in which attendees will learn how the Audience Response System (ARS) is a great in-person and remote CBase tool for adding engagement to didactic sessions. They will also learn how to integrate the ARS with PowerPoint, activate an ARS session, and see and display student responses. This session will be held via Zoom on Friday, Dec. 15 from 12-1 p.m., and those attending can earn one Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit per session.

### **CLINICAL UPDATES**

#### **Accolades for Stony Brook Hospitals**

Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has been named among the top tier hospitals nationwide for stroke and cardiac care, according to Healthgrades, a leading resource that evaluates approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide solely on patient outcomes. Stony Brook has been named as one of:

- America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care™ (2015-24), making it one of only two hospitals in New York State to receive this distinction for 10 consecutive years.
- America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care™ (2016-24), the only hospital in New York State to receive this award for 9 consecutive years.

This places SBUH within the top 5% for stroke care and the top 10% for cardiac care - reflecting SBUH's outstanding clinical performance and distinguishes it as one of the country's leading hospitals. Healthgrades identified the 100 Best Hospitals for 16 of the most common specialty care areas – recipient hospitals represent the top 2% of hospitals for each specialty. These newest rankings come on the heels of Stony Brook achieving the highest level of national recognition as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for 2023.

SBUH also received Excellence Awards in the areas of cardiac care, neurosciences and gastrointestinal care, as well as five-star (the highest level) ratings for critical care and other treatments and procedures.



- Cardiac Care Excellence Award™ (2015-2024) and Five-Star Distinction for Heart Attack (2022-24) and Heart Failure (2014-24)
- Neurosciences Excellence Award™ (2016-2024)
- Cranial Neurosurgery Excellence Award™ (2020-2024) and Five-Star Distinction (2020-24) for Cranial Neurosurgery (2020-2024)
- Stroke Care Excellence Award™ (2016-2024) and Five-Star Distinction for Treatment of Stroke (2015-24)
- Gastrointestinal Care Excellence Award™ (2024) and Five-Star Distinction for Treatment of GI Bleed (2024)
- Critical Care Five-Star Distinctions for treatment of sepsis (2015-24), pulmonary embolism (2024) and Respiratory Failure (2021-24)

### **Recruitment**

Recruiting and retention continues to be a top priority across the enterprise. Stony Brook University Hospital has seen a steady decline in job vacancy rates over the past 12 months, with staff levels increasing by 7.6 percent over the same period, leading to a record-breaking 7,916 employees. SBM's Talent Acquisition team has received recognition, ranking as a top 50 talent acquisition team in the 2023 OnCon Icon Awards. Teams are awarded based on various factors, including their impact on the organization, innovation, and exceptional leadership.

*Rakiya Watts, Certified Nurse Midwife, has been named the new Director of the Midwifery Division.* Rakiya is a graduate of the Yale School of Nursing in Midwifery Education and received her board certification in 2010. She has been a member of Stony Brook Medicine's Midwifery Division since 2017 and has been a strong asset to the team since her arrival. She is active in the Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Social Justice (IDEAS) Committee in the School of Nursing and assists in developing a mentoring program for nursing students, faculty, and staff. Rakiya is also a member of the Urim (Under Represented in Medicine) committee.

*Alyson Ornstein joined SBUH as the Director of the Regional Perinatal Center.* Alyson joins with experience in leadership and in neonatal, mother/baby and obstetrical care, as well as invaluable expertise in the Magnet credentialing journey. She is a Timesteps master trainer, which will provide additional support to Women's services, and has critical experience in the New York State Regional Perinatal Center reporting data, New York Birth Equity Collaborative and metabolic newborn screening programs.

### **Stony Brook Pediatric Emergency Department Announces Expansion**

The Pediatric Emergency Department hosted an event to announce the successful completion of a fundraising campaign to support the department's expansion. With a project cost of \$35



million, the department raised \$20 million through private philanthropy, illustrating the local community's depth of care and commitment for children's health and safety. The expanded emergency department will positively impact the community through the enhanced care it will provide for children in need.

#### **Stony Brook Cancer Center Hosts Tobacco Awareness and Education Event**

Health educators from Stony Brook Cancer Center hosted a lunch-and-learn to share insights about the harmful effects of smoking, the truth about vaping, and the benefits of living a smoke-free life as part of the Great American Smokeout, an annual event sponsored by the American Cancer Society to encourage smokers to quit. The event was presented by Stony Brook Cancer Center's Office of Community Outreach and Engagement and Healthier U.

#### **Stony Brook Medicine Hosts Town Hall**

SBM hosted a welcome and meet-and-greet to introduce Dr. William Wertheim as Interim Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine. Dr. Wertheim shared his insights on Stony Brook Medicine — past and future. The event included a robust Q&A session with Dr. Wertheim and his executive leadership team and was among the most well-attended town hall events at SBM, with more than 200+ in attendance and hundreds more attending via Teams.

#### **Stony Brook Medicine Holds COVID-19 Vaccine PODs**

In response to employee interest in receiving the updated monovalent COVID-19 vaccine, a COVID-19 Vaccine POD was held for all Stony Brook University Hospital faculty, staff, and students on clinical rotation.

#### **The American College of Surgeons Completes Tri-Annual Survey of SBUH Bariatric Program**

The American College of Surgeons completed its tri-annual survey of Stony Brook University Hospital's Bariatric program in mid-October. The survey was highly complementary to the program, which is led by Dr. Dino Spaniolas. The survey validated the hospital's quality-focused efforts to provide the highest level of care for both adults and adolescents and acknowledged the team's efforts by identifying several best practices.

#### **Adult Trauma Program Reverified as a Level 1 Center by the American College of Surgeons**

The Adult Trauma program was once again reverified as a Level 1 Center by the American College of Surgeons under the leadership of Dr. James Vosswinkel. The program was recognized for its





extraordinary leadership across all departments; its strong community programs, including Injury Prevention; and its role as a regional leader.

### **North Fork Narcan Rescue Station Program Grows in Southold Town**

Narcan Rescue Stations have now been installed in nearly 20 locations throughout Southold Town continuing the work of Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, Rich Vandenburg, owner of Greenport Harbor Brewing Co. and former president of the Greenport Village Business Improvement District, and Tina Wolf, Executive Director of Community Action for Social Justice. This initiative in partnership with the Town of Southold began in 2021 due to the tragic deaths of six people who overdosed on fentanyl-laced opioids.

### **SBSH and SBELIH Hold Joint Advisory Committee Meetings**

Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital are holding joint-advisory committee meetings to discuss some of the most pressing issues in healthcare on the East End and affirm their strong commitment to improving access to care for patients in this region. Both committees emphasized the importance of continued efforts to recruit and retain healthcare workers on the East End, where housing costs and other barriers pose challenges. The committees shared their progress, including added benefits for new hires such as sign-on bonuses and creative ways to assist with housing.

### **Stony Brook Medicine Welcomes South Fork Providers**

On the South Fork, SBM welcomed primary care and specialty physicians and advanced practice providers:

- Kimberly Hsu, MD, Stony Brook Medicine Community Medical Group
- Nancy Keegan, NP – Montauk
- Christopher Koke, DO (starting January 2024)
- Carlos Magalhaes, DO – Sag Harbor and Hampton Bays
- Carly Mendoza, NP – Sag Harbor and Hampton Bays
- Lawrence Rubin, PA – Shelter Island
- Michael Tenore, DO – Montauk
- East Hampton Walk-In
- James Brady, MD – Plastic Surgery – (starting soon)
- Brian Lynch, MD – Orthopaedics – Southampton
- Christopher McCloud, PA – Orthopaedics – Southampton
- Ana Martinez Tapia, MD – Gastroenterology – (Starting July 2024)





## **ADDITIONAL SBM NEWS**

### **[School of Health Professions Faculty Present at Annual ASAHP Conference](#)**

School of Health professions faculty presented at the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP) October 2023 Annual Conference: Moving Forward — Emerging Practices and Lasting Changes in Higher Education and Health Professions. Concurrent session presentations and poster presentation abstracts represented collaborative work by faculty in healthcare education. Topics included interprofessional education and collaboration, and improving diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

### **Emergency Preparedness Best Practice at SBUH**

Emergency Management attended the Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition statewide meeting with the New York State Department of Health Office of Health Preparedness in Albany and provided a presentation of SBUH's annual Mass Casualty Incident Exercise for 2023, Operation Box Office. The presentation was well received and inspired many questions regarding the exercise planning process at SBUH which was declared a best practice.

### **Emergency Management Conducts Climate Change Table Top Exercise**

The Emergency Management department conducted a Climate Change Table Top exercise with internal and external partners and stakeholders. Participating county agencies included the Suffolk County Department of Health, Office of Emergency Management, American Red Cross, Long Island Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (LIVOAD) and the Suffolk County Water Authority. The National Weather Service provided a comprehensive overview of Climate Change and the potential scenarios that may arise. The facilitated discussion covered an extreme heat event requiring regional coordination and resources.