



**TO:** University Senate

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

**DATE:** November 6, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Interim EVP Report

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As I begin my new role as Interim Executive Vice President of Stony Brook Medicine, I am grateful to President McInnis for her confidence in my leadership. Throughout this interim period and beyond, our academic health center will continue serving Long Island as one of the nation's premier healthcare providers while providing the best education to our students and future healthcare workforce. Our strategic plan will continue to be the blueprint for our journey. It is a roadmap that we have collectively built reflecting our organization's vision, mission, and values. I am committed to maintaining the course set by this plan, developed with hard work and input from faculty, staff and clinicians. Building upon my nearly 30-year career at Stony Brook Medicine, I look forward to working together to build a stronger, healthier future for our community. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead such a remarkable team.

## **ACADEMIC UPDATES**

### **Long Island Network for Clinical and Translational Science Holds Inaugural Forum**

The Long Island Network for Clinical and Translational Science (LINCATS) held its inaugural forum at the MART Auditorium on September 26 to share its mission to serve Long Island by focusing on health equity, building a nimbler research infrastructure, and engaging communities through outreach, education, and training. LINCATS' two-year Mentored Clinical and Translational Research Career Development Program is accepting applications until December 1. The Program mentors and trains investigators in clinical/translational research and supports their progression to independent research careers.

LINCATS' next event, "Bringing Healthcare Data to Life: Health Informatics Bootcamp," will build attendees' understanding of the analysis and interpretation of available real-world data to guide decision-making in healthcare, and drive awareness of the many existing resources that can help them explore data inside and outside of Stony Brook. The event takes place on Thursday, October 19 at the Charles B. Wang Center at 8:30 am. No registration is required.

### **School of Social Welfare Faculty Collaborate for NIH Award on Healthcare Disparities**

School of Social Welfare faculty members Miguel Munoz-Laboy, DrPH, Professor, and Maria E. Torres, PhD, Assistant Professor, along with researchers at the University of Central Florida, Boston University, George Washington University, and the University of Puerto Rico were recently awarded \$3.8 million for a groundbreaking, five-year study focusing on Latinx and



migrant low-income communities, a growing yet medically underserved population in the US that faces intersecting epidemics, including asthma, cardiac disease, COVID-19, diabetes, HIV, hypertension, mental health, and substance use disorders. The RO1 grant seeks to understand and decrease health disparities driven by structural barriers to care.

### **Stony Brook Medicine Leaders and Faculty Recognized**

Dr. Peter Igarashi, Dean of the Renaissance School of Medicine, and Carol Gomes, Stony Brook University Hospital CEO and COO, were recognized and honored during the Herald 2023 Excellence in Healthcare Awards at The Heritage Club on September 27. They and other honorees received their awards and were formally recognized for their outstanding dedication and commitment toward making a lasting difference in the health and well-being of others.

Dr. Thomas Diacovo, Vice Chair of Research and Chief of Neonatology for the Department of Pediatrics at Stony Brook Children's Hospital, was awarded the New York Fund for Innovation in Research and Scientific Talent (NYFIRST). NYFIRST is an Empire State Development-funded (ESD) grant program that encourages recruitment and retention of exceptional life science researchers and world-class talent at the state's medical schools to accelerate Translational Research.

The Renaissance School of Medicine faculty selected ten educators for its 2023 Faculty Awards. Those selected were nominated by their peers in nine categories for their outstanding work in the areas of research, teaching, clinical service, mentoring and humanism. They will receive their awards and be recognized at the Annual Faculty Awards Ceremony later in October.

2023 Faculty Award selections include:

- Aesculapius Award for Teaching: Geta Teresa, Dept. of Medicine (Hospital Medicine)
- Senior Research Excellence: Joshua Dubnau, Dept. of Anesthesiology; Markus Seeliger, Dept. of Pharmacological Sciences
- Early Career Research Excellence: Hwan Kim, Dept. of Microbiology, and Immunology
- Excellence in Student Mentoring: Cordia Beverley, Dept. of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine
- Excellence in Resident/Fellow Mentoring: Jason Kim, Dept. of Urology
- Excellence in Faculty Mentorship: Sandeep Mallipattu, Dept. of Medicine (Nephrology and Hypertension)
- Excellence in Clinical Service: Henry Tannous, Dept. of Surgery (CT Surgery)
- Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award Presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation: Grace Natalie La Torre, Dept. of Medicine (Palliative Care)

### **School of Health Professions Faculty Recognized**

Brooke Ellison and Gerald Simons were named as new members of the SUNY Global Health Institute, which fosters collaboration and innovation among regional and international partners in education, training, and research initiatives centered around global health programs at SUNY Academic Health Centers, universities, and college campuses.



Anu Andrews, Clinical Assistant Professor, Respiratory Care, has been selected by the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and the FITA team to participate in the FITA Initiative, an eight-week course to foster inclusive teaching practices.

Jeannie Guglielmo, Chair and Clinical Associate Professor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, was nominated to be a part of the 2023-24 Emerging Leaders cohort, a two-year program run through the Office of the Provost that fosters higher-education leaders in research, education, and administration.

Audrey Grimaldi, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, was nominated to be a part of the 2023-24 Excellence in Teaching cohort, a new program run through the Office of the Provost that includes a series of workshops and hands-on activities related to syllabus redesign, inclusive pedagogy, and experiential learning.

### **Schools of Social Welfare and Nursing team up for Interprofessional Education**

Students from the School of Social Welfare (SSW) and School of Nursing (SON) came together for a full day of experiential learning focused on interprofessional collaboration in a health care setting. Participating students heard presentations from SSW faculty on grief/bereavement and biopsychosocial assessments, and from the Stony Brook Center for Excellence in Alzheimer Disease on the evaluation of patients with memory loss. In the afternoon, students rotated in multidisciplinary triads to participate in a simulation with standardized patients. The discussions heightened awareness of the commonalities and differences between nursing and social work and how collaboration from different perspectives and skills could enhance outcomes.

### **Department of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine Recognized**

Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for higher education program rankings and planning, honored the Department of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine last month, ranking it thirteenth among the [Top 40 Best Online Master's in Nutrition Degree Programs for 2024](#). More than 3,000 academic institutions were analyzed for the report.

### **School of Nursing receives NYS High Needs Nursing Funding for Simulation**

The School of Nursing received a New York State High Needs Nursing Funding for Simulation award, which will be used to purchase a Laerdal Nursing Anne Simulator, African Descent, high-fidelity patient simulator. The addition of the Laerdal Nursing Anne Simulator, designed for basic to advanced training, will enhance the school's Learning Resource Center by providing additional opportunities to build interpersonal and team skills while developing clinical competence. This lifelike patient simulator is specifically designed to increase simulation fidelity, represent patient diversity respectfully, and maximize training opportunities.

### **School of Social Welfare kicks off Community Connect Student Engagement Program**

The School of Social Welfare kicked off its second year of a student engagement and success initiative for the purpose of building community, reinforcing success for students, providing professional development, and engaging with faculty outside of the classroom. Called "Community Connect", the programs nurture an inclusive sense of community, share essential "need-to-know" information, and create opportunities to engage undergraduate and graduate



students in critical conversations around pressing and emergent social, economic, and environmental justice issues. This semester, programs are focused on Self-Care; Compassion Fatigue/Burnout; Alumni panel presenting on The Many Faces of Social Work: Where Do Social Workers Work?; Career Development; and Professional Communication. The programs are offered in-person and virtually.

### **School of Health Professions Hosts Conference on Inclusion for Students**

The School of Health Professions hosted [Inclusion Done Right! Optimizing Community-based Inclusion for Children with Disabilities](#), a first-of-its-kind conference to promote inclusive recreation and leisure that aligns with best practices and optimizes participation for children with disabilities. The audience consisted of university faculty and staff, community-based program providers and administrators, and children with disabilities accompanied by their families and caregivers. The event included presentations by expert university faculty and invited speakers on inclusive leisure and recreation, as well as a one-hour poster session.

### **Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit Seeking Volunteers**

The Renaissance School of Medicine's Black Men in White Coats chapter is looking for student and faculty volunteers for its inaugural Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit, which takes place on Thursday, November 16, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Student Activities Center on West Campus. The event will host nearly 500 students of all races and genders from schools throughout Long Island, ranging from third grade through high school to participate in a full day of activities highlighting medical/health education. Volunteers are needed to help with event set-up, check-in, lunch networking with students, and logistics. If interested, volunteers can register for the event via [Eventbrite](#) and email [blackmenwhitecoats@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:blackmenwhitecoats@stonybrookmedicine.edu) to provide hours of availability.

## **CLINICAL UPDATE**

### **SUNY Future of Health Care Workforce Task Force**

Val Gray, Vice Chancellor for Academic Health & Hospital Affairs and Chief Hospital and Healthcare Operations Officer for SUNY asked me to serve on the SUNY-wide Task Force on the Future of the Health Care Workforce. The task force will focus on expanding SUNY's educational capacity in health care profession shortages and aligning education with health care industry needs. New York ranks third among all U.S. states in health care workforce contribution, positioning the state to experience a more pronounced impact from a shortage of health care professionals. Stacy Jaffee Gropack, PhD, Dean of the School of Health Professions is also serving on the Task Force's SUNY Capacity Workgroup and Andrew Wackett, MD, Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education at the RSOM is serving on the Expand SUNY Pipeline Workgroup

### **SBUH Quality Assessment Review Board (QARB)**

Members of the QARB visited campus on September 15 for an in-person meeting that included updates from Dr. Eric Morley, Chief Quality Officer and Liz Popwell, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer. President McInnis also joined the meeting to share an update on Stony Brook initiatives including the New York Climate Exchange, the Jim and Marily Simons \$500M



donation and more. Prior to the meeting, the QARB members toured the Stony Brook Cancer Center, Children's Hospital and visited the School of Nursing Simulation Education Center where they observed Midwifery students in training followed by the Stony Brook Clinical Simulation Center to observe RSOM students in collaborative training.

### **Town Halls (Strategic Plan)**

Leadership and staff Town Halls were held on separate dates in September with both focused on the SBM Strategic Plan. The staff town hall also included satellite watch parties at off-campus locations including Advanced Specialty Care facilities in Commack and Lake Grove, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, and the School of Dental Medicine. Following the event, leaders were assigned to speak with their teams to discuss tangible examples for their role in the plan. Further communication activities are underway to ensure broad visibility, build awareness among employees and demonstrate how their departments and specific roles help support the plan.

### **Hospice**

A four-bed unit was created on 12 North to address a compelling need for patients awaiting placement in an outpatient hospice bed. Stony Brook University Hospital is working closely with Good Shepard Hospice, allowing for transitions of care in a seamless manner. If Good Shepard's beds are filled, SBUH inpatients requiring hospice care can move into a hospice bed until Good Shepard has an available bed. This service allows for a more compassionate setting for families as loved ones receive end-of-life care, while also positively impacting hospital mortality rates and hospital quality rankings. The space was built to provide comfort for families spending time with their loved ones on the unit until a placement is achieved.

### **Stony Brook University Hospital Curtain Wall:**

A multi-year capital project is underway to replace Stony Brook University Hospital's curtain wall for the North and South hospital towers. The project entails replacing the exterior glass windows to further secure the building envelope and improve energy efficiency. The cost is approximately \$98M over 4 years. Team meetings occur regularly to conduct operational planning and logistics to minimize disruption to patient flow.

### **Ronald McDonald House:**

The Ronald McDonald House NY Metro have reached their fundraising goal of 80% and will be constructing a family-based facility comprised of up to twenty-four family stay rooms, full kitchen and dining facilities, fitness space, home theater space, lounge spaces, access to laundry, play spaces, and to outdoor respite areas. It will be located across the street from the main entrance to SBUH. As planning commences, a timeline will be generated and shared.

### **East Hampton Emergency Department:**

The East Hampton Emergency Department is planned to open in Fall 2024. This facility will offer improved access and reduced response times for vital emergency care and other necessary services, expanding to meet the healthcare needs for the South Fork to ensure our communities have access to the highest level of healthcare. The space will encompass 22,000 square feet providing Cardiac monitoring capability in every exam room, dedicated rooms for advanced



imaging, fast-track treatment rooms for general, pediatric OB/GYN, and ophthalmology patients, on-site ambulance for hospital transport, two isolation rooms and a resuscitation room. The building footings and foundations are complete, and the crane recently arrived on site to install the first pieces of steel.

#### **ADDITIONAL SBM NEWS**

##### **Recladding of Health Science Towers:**

Architect and structural engineering firms have been commissioned to design replacement of the curtain wall on the health science towers. Initial studies and design concepts as well as work scope are being peer reviewed now as part of due diligence on the \$100M+ project. Once the peer review process is completed a design and panel system will be finalized for fabrication and installation. This is a 6-7-year project from initiation of studies to completion.

##### **Lab Renovations**

The first phase has begun for approximately 50,000 sq. ft. of lab space renovations to be designed in a more modern open-concept style with wet bench labs that will help with recruiting and retaining researchers.

##### **Recruitments**

*Dr. Susan Hedayati* started on September 5 as Vice Dean for Research and will also be a professor in the Dept. of Medicine, Division of Nephrology. Dr. Hedayati was formerly Professor of Medicine, Associate Vice Chair for Research and Faculty Development, and Director of Nephrology Clinical, Translational, and Population Health Research in the Department of Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. She is a highly accomplished physician-scientist whose research has focused on non-traditional cardiovascular risk factors in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

*Dr. Paul Aitken* joined us as the new Chief of Population Health and Associate Dean for Clinical Integration effective September 18. Dr. Aitken was the Senior Vice President, Population Health, and Chief Medical Officer at AvMed, where he led a team of 150 staff and clinicians. Prior to his tenure at AvMed, he was the Chief Medical and Clinical Transformation Officer at GEHA (Government Employees Health Association, Inc.), one of the largest national medical and dental plans serving federal employees, covering over 2 million federal employees and retirees.

##### **Searches**

**Cancer Center Director:** Search is underway.

**Chief Administrative Officer for Stony Brook Southampton Hospital:** Final candidates are being considered.

##### **[Warren Graham Elected to the NASW-NYS Board of Directors](#)**

Warren Graham, Assistant Dean of Practicum Education and Clinical Associate Professor in the Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare, has been elected to the National Association of Social Workers-New York State Chapter (NASW-NYS) Board of Directors as its next president. Graham will serve one year as president-elect and then assume his position as president on July





1, 2024. Graham co-chairs the Curriculum Committee and Committee on Professionalism and teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. He has been active as an educator, forensic evaluator, and clinician for more than 20 years.

#### [PhD Candidate Awarded Three Prestigious Fellowships](#)

Yasharah Raza, a doctoral candidate in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology in the Renaissance School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacological Sciences, recently won three prestigious fellowships and awards totaling \$45,000 supporting her research on Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). Raza's translational cancer research at the Stony Brook Cancer Center, under Dr. Chiara Luberto, focuses on new treatment options for the most aggressive subtypes of AML, where patient survival is only three to nine months on average. She also investigates how sphingolipids, named after the enigmatic sphinx, are involved in supporting both normal and cancerous red blood cells.

#### **Speech-language Pathology Recent Graduate Receives ASAHP 2023 Scholarship of Excellence**

Angela Morales '23, Speech-language Pathology, received the ASAHP 2023 Scholarship of Excellence, which recognizes outstanding students in the health professions who are achieving excellence in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in health professions.