



TO: University Senate

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

DATE: April 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Interim EVP Report

ACADEMIC UPDATES

School of Nursing Recognized by National Student Nurses Association

Stony Brook University School of Nursing has been named a recipient of the NSNA Stellar School Chapter Recognition by the National Student Nurses Association. This prestigious acknowledgment highlights the school of nursing chapter's unwavering commitment to NSNA, shared governance, and professional development. The NSNA Stellar School Chapter plaque and pins will be presented to School Chapter President, Katherine Ballarano, '24, at the NSNA 72nd Annual Convention in Lake Buena Vista, FL on April 6, 2024.

SBM Celebrates Women's History Month

The 18th annual Women in Medicine and Science (WIMS) Research Day took place at the Health Sciences Tower March 6, with the aim of celebrating basic, translational and clinical research in medicine and science, strengthening collaboration, and providing a venue for interaction and camaraderie for women physicians and scientists. Drs. Agnieszka Bialkowska and Stella Tsirka organized this year's event, which welcomed guest speaker Dianna M. Milewicz from the McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Milewicz spoke about her discoveries in diagnosing and identifying rare mutations contributing to vascular diseases, specifically thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections. The event also included a robust panel discussion among SBM physicians and RSOM faculty about the sense of "belonging" for women in medicine and science, and a poster session in which 114 abstracts were submitted by faculty, staff, fellows, residents, postdoctoral associates, and graduate, medical and undergraduate students.

On March 6, Stacy Jaffee Gropack, Dean of the School of Health Professions, presented a Women's Empowerment and Self-Care Mini Session: "Prominent Women in Healthcare – A Look



Back.” The session explored women’s central role in the development and advancement of healthcare throughout history, as well as women’s crucial roles in providing care, conducting groundbreaking research, advocating for public health, and shaping healthcare policies today.

Honoring Social Work Month

The School of Social Welfare hosted an open house luncheon on March 19 in honor of Social Work Month, to celebrate the social workers at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook University Hospital and the Long Island State Veterans Home. One hundred seventy-five social workers from around campus were invited to join the faculty and staff from SSW for lunch and networking. “Community engagement is the heart of social work. It’s what we do,” said SSW Dean Shari Miller. “Connection with the community provides opportunities for our students, and important conversations are had with our colleagues from around campus.” More than 90 guests, including many alumni of the school, were in attendance.

Paolo Boffetta Appointed Commendatore of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic

Paolo Boffetta, Associate Director of Family, Population and Preventative Medicine, has been bestowed the title of Commendatore, or Commander, of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic for outstanding scientific merit. Dr. Boffetta’s new title represents the third level of OMRI, which was established in 1951 and rewards outstanding “merit acquired by the nation” in the fields of science, literature, arts, economics and public service as well as social, philanthropic and humanitarian activities. Bestowal is issued by decree of the president of the Italian Republic on the recommendation of the president of the Council of Ministers, and it is considered to be the highest-ranking honor of the Republic.

Yuri Jadotte Appointed to HSRA Advisory Committee

Assistant Professor Yuri Jadotte, Associate Program Director for the Public Health Preventive Medicine Residency with the Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine, has been appointed to the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HSRA) Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry (ACTPCMD). The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services concerning the medicine and dentistry activities and develops, publishes and implements performance measures and guidelines for longitudinal evaluations of programs.



Lilianne R. Mujica-Parodi Elected to the AIMBE College of Fellows

Lilianne R. Mujica-Parodi, Director of the Laboratory for Computational Neurodiagnostics and SME Endowed Professor, has been successfully elected to the 2024 Class of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) College of Fellows. AIMBE's nearly 3,000 Fellows represent the top two percent of medical and biological engineers in academia, industry, education, clinical practice and government.

Dr. Daniel Lee to present at CELT Teaching and Learning Symposium

Join [Daniel Lee](#), clinical associate professor and chair, Department of Physical Therapy on Friday, April 12, 2024 at CELT's Teaching and Learning Symposium 2024. Dr. Lee's presentation "Gamifying Statistics for Health Sciences" will explore creating an environment that promotes learning in research design and statistics courses where students may otherwise feel disconnected from their expectations of what their health science training would be like. This year's theme is "Innovative Pedagogy." The symposium gathers educators to explore best practices and groundbreaking approaches that elevate teaching and produce transformative learning experiences.

MSW Student Named National Association of Social Workers Student of the Year

Melissa Torregrossa, BSW, '24, MSW student in the School of Social Welfare has been named Master of Social Work (MSW) Student of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers New York State Chapter. Melissa is an inducted member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Stony Brook's Phi Omega chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda Non-Traditional Student National Honor Society, and a candidate for the Phi Alpha National Honor Society, Phi Theta Chapter. She holds the role of MSW Representative (2023-2024) on the board of NASW-NYS.

School of Nursing Student to Receive SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Stony Brook School of Nursing Student, Nicole Jellen 24' will be awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. The SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence acknowledges students for outstanding achievements that have demonstrated the integration of SUNY excellence within many aspects of their lives in areas such as academics, leadership, campus involvement, community service, or the arts. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a student by the University.



Renaissance School of Medicine Completes Match Day

The Renaissance School of Medicine held its 2024 Match Day event on March 15 at the Baumann Center for Leadership and Service. During this annual tradition that simultaneously takes place at medical schools across the country, 124 senior students were selected for residency training in 17 specialties across 20 states, with Internal Medicine, Psychiatry and Anesthesiology being the top three choices. More than half of these 124 students matched to programs in New York State, and 20 percent will continue their residency training at Stony Brook Medicine. More than one-third of students matched to primary care specialties—a continuing positive RSOM Match trend in recent years that helps meet a pressing community need.

School of Health Professions Hosts Diversity Equity and Inclusion Lunch & Learn

On March 19, SHP's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted a Lunch & Learn with [Dr. Rewa Thompson](#), Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, who held an hour-long presentation on creating inclusivity in the classroom, entitled: "The Textbook Isn't Always Write"

CLINICAL UPDATES

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Long Islanders cast more than one million votes in the 19th annual Bethpage Best of LI competition. Stony Brook Medicine took top honors in the following areas within the Health and Wellness category:
 - SBUH was named Best Hospital.
 - Stony Brook Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center was selected as the Best Bariatric Practice for the second consecutive year.
 - Jonathan B. Weinstein, North Suffolk Cardiology, was chosen as Best Cardiologist, an honor he has held for the past six years.
 - Bradley Trivax, Island Fertility, was named best within the In Vitro Fertility Practice category.
 - For the fourth year in a row, SBUH received top honors as the Best Maternity Ward.
 - The Stony Brook Midwifery practice of University Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology was named Best Midwives for two years in a row.
 - Ayse Bag Ozbek was chosen as Best Rheumatologist for the fourth consecutive year.



- SBM Department of Surgery's Kenneth W. Gow, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery, has been elected to serve as secretary of the American Pediatric Surgical Association's (APSA) Board. Dr. Gow, who was also recently elected as chair of Pediatric Surgical Subspecialties Alliance of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), will assume his role as APSA secretary at the organization's annual board meeting this May. His three-year term will run through May 2027.

PERSONNEL

- SBM has named Emily Mastaler the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital (SBSH), effective May 20, 2024. Reporting to Chief Executive Officer of SBUH Carol Gomes, Mastaler will be responsible for leading SBSH in its mission to provide high-quality healthcare throughout the South Fork of Long Island. As CAO, she will oversee and ensure the integration and implementation of operational policies and procedures in support of the mission and strategic goals of SBM.

Mastaler joins Stony Brook with nearly two decades of experience in the healthcare sector. Most recently, she was president and CEO of River Hospital, a rural healthcare system in upstate New York. Under her leadership, she implemented a highly successful strategic plan, guided operational success during the global coronavirus pandemic and obtained philanthropic support for River Hospital's first-ever endowment campaign. During her time, she spearheaded diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives organization-wide, to improve health equity and population health outcomes and facilitated operations designed to promote access to care, efficiency and quality. Actions like these resulted in enhanced patient and staff engagement.

Mastaler earned a Master of Business Administration from Northeastern University, her Master of Arts in Psychology from Antioch University, and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Elmira College. In addition to her numerous contributions to River Hospital, Mastaler is associated with many professional societies and organizations, including the American College of Healthcare Executives, National Rural Health Association, American Hospital Association, Healthcare Association of New York State (HANY), National Council for Mental Wellbeing, and Healthcare Partners of the North Country, to name a few.

Fredric Weinbaum, who served as interim CAO at SBSH since March 2023, will continue in his roles as chief medical officer and chief operating officer.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Emergency Services

- The Mobile Stroke Unit (MSU) program works in conjunction with 45 volunteer EMS agencies to respond simultaneously with them to potential stroke calls. This dual response requires the permission/agreement between the EMS agency and SBUH. Beginning on March 1, 2024, we began responding to the Commack area - our 46th agency partner.
- On February 29, 2024, the first responder program was expanded on the North Fork. Prior to this date, we provided one first responder (staffed with a paramedic) 24/7 and a second response vehicle 12 hours each day. At the request of the EMS agencies on the North Fork, this expansion now provides a second response vehicle 24/7. These first responders provide 911 response for all ambulance calls from Mattituck to Orient. A third responder is stationed on Shelter Island 24/7.

Heart

- Heart Institute in collaboration with the Department of Medicine, implemented a limited hybrid expansion introducing a new CACU white team staffed by hospitalist and nurse practitioners. The addition of the new CACU white team will help optimize and improve patient throughput and patient experience.

Neurosciences

- A summary of addiction happenings across the health system was drafted for leadership. Opportunities for community support, educational endeavors, grant funding and advancing the science of addiction are strategic considerations of the Neurosciences Institute. The planned research symposium about Addiction, scheduled for April 5th is gaining momentum in attendees and submissions. This is an opportunity for those interested in addiction clinical work, research or education to come together and gain a better understanding of potential cross health system collaboration.
- Neurosurgery and orthopedics have a high-performing status in the US News ranking system.

Surgery

- Stony Brook Bariatrics was again recognized as “Best of Long Island” for 2023. This is a true recognition of the comprehensive care provided by the entire team.
- Surgical volumes continue to grow, and recent block time changes will allow for the busiest services to continue to expand. The Ambulatory Surgery Center case volume is up over 9% from last year and the total surgical volume is up over 5%.



Women's and Children's

- Patient experience scores in the Women's units (Maternal Urgent Care, Labor & Delivery, Antepartum and Postpartum) are steadily improving. Efforts have been focused on environment of care, nursing communication, physician communication and pain management via improved communication with the patient. The team continues to implement improvements while tweaking areas of focus to realize additional gains.
- The ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) has approved Stony Brook Children's application for a Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship program. Dr. Carl Kaplan is leading the effort to develop this educational program. We are also in the process of applying for a Pediatric Hospitalist Medicine Fellowship under the leadership of Dr. Maribeth Chitkara.
- Stony Brook Children's Hospital has received the final report from the American College of Surgeons for our Level I Pediatric Trauma survey. The hospital was awarded a 3-year recertification with many strengths highlighted such as the quality of our Trauma Program Manager, our collaboration with EMS agencies, and pre-hospital community engagement with EMD agencies with a focus on education, development of guidelines and protocols and performance improvement.

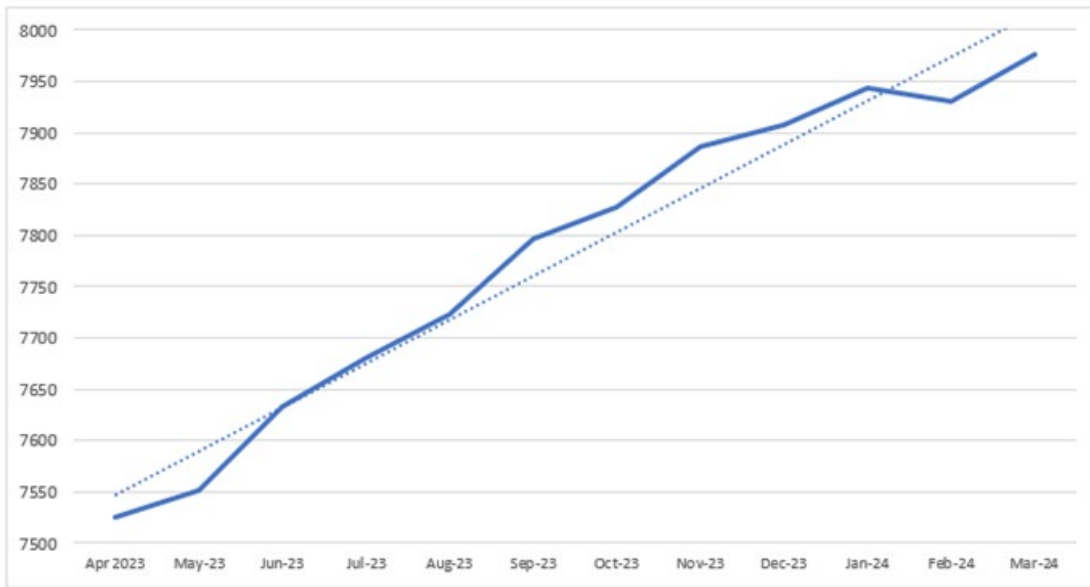
Human Resources

Employee Appreciation Day

- The hospitals celebrated Employee Appreciation Day on March 1. Leaders rounded on their units distributing small gifts and expressing their gratitude for the important work of our employees.

Recruitment and Retention

- Recruitment and retention remain top priorities and staffing levels continue to increase while vacancy rates continue to decrease.



Staffing Levels





Patient Experience

- SBUH achieved The Joint Commission Advanced Health Equity Certification on Feb 1, 2023, and is one of eight hospitals in the country to achieve this certification.
- The Patient Experience, Hospitalist and Nursing Medicine Teams launched the first Compassionated Connected Care training sessions with the Simulation Center. Multiple sessions are scheduled to focus on coaching to improve team communication during rounds and patient interactions.
- The Clinical Pastoral Education space was finalized and currently holds specialized training and education sessions for pastoral students, residents, and chaplains.
- The Language Access Department hired an Assistant Director of Language Services to oversee the expanded team, additional implementation of language services and education programs to provide training for faculty and staff.
- Nicole Rossol, Chief Patient Experience Officer, and Dr. Jonathan Buscaglia launched a “Patient Experience and Physician Communication Road Show” for all Physician Grand Rounds in 2024. These sessions will focus on current patient experience strategy, best practices to enhance physician/patient communication, metrics, and personal anecdotes along with patient stories.