



TO: University Senate

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

DATE: May 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Interim EVP Report

ACADEMIC UPDATES

School of Health Professions Receives Approval for Doctoral Program in Occupational Therapy

The School of Health Professions entry-level doctoral program in occupational therapy has received approval by the NYS Education Department and is now accepting applications for its inaugural cohort beginning June 2024. The OTD program will prepare students to become licensed occupational therapists with foundation theory, practice, and research-based skills; specialized knowledge related to their doctoral capstone project; and advanced skills in leadership, scholarship, advocacy, and clinical competence.

Center for Interprofessional Innovation Hosts Inaugural Event

The Center for Interprofessional Innovation hosted its inaugural event on April 19. The workshop was attended by 77 faculty, staff, clinical providers, and administrators from Stony Brook Medicine and the College of Business. Participants were introduced to the Center and its role advancing and supporting interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPECP) and are working in partnership across professions to plan an IPECP project. Seven students from different SBM programs offered their insights about the importance of IPECP during their studies.

Renaissance School of Medicine Holds Scholarly Concentrations Program Research Day

Faculty, mentors, staff, and students attended the Renaissance School of Medicine's Class of 2024 and Scholarly Concentrations Program (SCP) Research Day. The SCP is a four-year track opportunity for medical students to engage in and attain recognition for scholarly pursuits in related areas of medicine. During the three-hour event, six students from the Class of 2024 shared oral presentations, followed by more than 35 engaging poster presentations.

School of Health Professions Hosts Third Annual Interprofessional Education Day ([SB News](#))

In late March, more than 300 students from several programs in the School of Health Professions, along with students from the School of Social Welfare, participated in the School of Health Professions third Annual Interprofessional Education Day. The Interprofessional Education Collaborative's (IPEC) Core Competency focus this year was communication, with the overarching theme of communicating in a responsive, responsible, respectful, and compassionate manner between the health care team and the patient.

Susan Lane Inducted as Master of the American College of Physicians

Susan Lane, Director of the Renaissance School of Medicine's Internal Medicine Residency Program, Vice Chair of Education in the Department of Medicine, and faculty member in the Division of General, Geriatric, and Hospital Medicine, has been inducted as a Master of the American College of Physicians (MACP), the world's largest medical specialty society. Masters are selected based on their integrity, positions of honor, impact in practice or in medical research, or other attainments in science or in the art of medicine, according to the [ACP website](#).

Michelle Ballan Receives Loreen Arbus Champion for Disabilities Award

Michelle S. Ballan, Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the School of Social Welfare and Professor, Department of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine, received the Loreen Arbus Champion for Disabilities Award and was named one of [21 Leaders for the 21st Century](#) by Women's eNews. Dr. Ballan was honored at Women's eNews 24th annual Gala in New York City. The Loreen Arbus Champion for Disabilities Award pays tribute to a pioneer in the disability community. Honorees are selected based on their innovative programs and practices to ensure full equality regardless of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, or abilities.

Dorothy Lane Receives American College of Preventive Medicine Board of Regents' Scientific Excellence Award

Dorothy Lane, Renaissance School of Medicine Distinguished Service Professor, received the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) Board of Regents' Scientific Excellence Award, which recognizes outstanding scientific achievements, contributions, and excellence in preventive medicine. The review panel noted, "Your career-long contributions are exemplary, as you have provided an incredible body of work to the field of preventive medicine".



Rajiv Lajmi Named Career Center Partnership Faculty of the Year

Rajiv Lajmi, Chair and Clinical Assistant Professor of Applied Health Informatics will be honored as Faculty of the Year at the Stony Brook Career Center Partnership Celebration. Dr. Lajmi was selected for his longstanding partnership and extensive involvement with the Career Center, including his dedication to creating student internship opportunities and networking with employer partners to foster connections.

Melissa Torregrossa Named MSW Student of the Year by National Assoc. of Social Workers

Melissa Torregrossa, BSW '23, MSW Candidate '24, has been named MSW Student of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers, New York State Chapter. Currently pursuing her Master of Social Work (MSW) with a focus on Community Policy and Political Social Action, Melissa's journey mirrors her dedication to transformative social impact. Melissa graduated in May 2023 summa cum laude from the School of Social Welfare. She 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. Currently, she holds the role of MSW Representative (2023-2024) on the board of NASW-NYS.

School of Social Welfare Student Receives SBU Provost's Award for Academic Excellence

This award is given annually to a very select number of graduating seniors who have shown academic excellence in the classroom, in research, and in contributing toward building a stronger academic community. Deanna Baker was nominated by her Integrating Seminar Professor and practicum faculty advisor, Jeanette Lukas. "I am impressed by Deanna's dedication to her responsibilities and her proactive approach in generating innovative and morally sound ideas. She willingly takes on additional projects beyond what's required, enriching both the educational experience for social work and the well-being of her clients," said Lukas.

Occupational Therapy Students Receive American Occupational Therapy Foundation Endowed Scholarships

Students Olivia Izenwasser, Meagan Kearney, and Sydney Zelin are winners of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) New York State Endowed Scholarship. AOTF offers scholarships to full-time students currently enrolled in accredited or developing occupational therapy programs. The Scholarship Program is one of the oldest of the Foundation's programs, dating back to the establishment of AOTF in 1965.



Lacey Kaufer Wins Community Impact Award

Health Science student Lacey Kaufer was chosen as the winner of the Stony Brook University Community Impact Award. Lacey is a two-term president for the Pre-Physician Assistant Club and has been a TA for Health Science courses such as Medical Terminology and Research Methods. Her community service includes providing hygiene boxes to homeless shelters; volunteering at the Long Island State Veterans Home and Sunshine Alternative; helping peers in suicidal crisis through SBU's Peer Bystander Intervention QPR training. After graduation, Lacey hopes to continue her studies in a Physician Assistant graduate program.

School of Nursing Students Participate in "Styled Wellness" Community Health Program

School of Nursing Undergraduate Nursing students participated in the "Styled Wellness" program with the Suffolk County Department of Health, Office of Minority Health. The students conducted blood pressure screenings and delivered health information to patrons in two barber shops in Suffolk County. This effort brought preventive healthcare screenings into the community in a local setting. The program was coordinated by the Suffolk County Department of Health and Dr. Jessica Fenton, a Preventive Medicine resident at Stony Brook Medicine.

School of Social Welfare Students Engage Local Community

- BSW students, in partnership with the School of Public Health, who are interning as part of the Healthy Libraries Program (HeLP), organized a senior fair for older adults at the Middle Country Library. The students helped residents apply for public assistance benefits and hosted a food distribution in partnership with Food Solidarity, a Long Island hunger relief organization.
- SSW Faculty and BSW students conducted a voter registration event at Patchogue-Medford High School. They held workshops for all the 11th and 12th grade classes and registered/pre-registered 147 young people to vote.

Justin Lawrence Named Employee of the Month, Stony Brook University Hospital

Alumnus Justin Lawrence, MSW '13, was recognized as Employee of the Month in the Stony Brook University Hospital Emergency Department, where he has worked many years and is described as the "GOAT" in the ED. As a social worker, Justin sees challenging cases alongside his fellow nurses, social workers, physicians, clergy, and other colleagues.

CLINICAL UPDATES

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Becker's Healthcare named Stony Brook Medicine Top 150 Places to Work in Healthcare in 2024. The list highlights hospitals, health systems and healthcare companies that prioritize workplace excellence and the happiness, satisfaction, well-being, and fulfillment of their employees.

Becker's described Stony Brook Medicine (SBM) "as having long demonstrated its commitment to a collaborative, inclusive, enriching, respectful, and rewarding work experience for all employees. All leaders attend a leadership education and development program to learn best practices in employee engagement. Feedback from employees is encouraged, with a convenient online suggestion portal, executive tabling events, daily huddles, staff meetings, and leader rounding. Stony Brook provides highly competitive pay and benefits, having invested more than \$50 million in non-contractual salary increases for more than 4,000 employees over the past three years. The hospital also commits to work-life balance via compressed work weeks, self-scheduling, and remote work options where practical. In addition, a dedicated resilience room allows for relaxation and programs like guided meditation, mindfulness sessions, yoga, and pet therapy. The hospital also features a diverse and inclusive work environment in which the employee population closely mirrors the rich diversity of the community it serves."

This recognition is the latest distinction the SBM healthcare system has received in 2024. For the second year in a row, Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) achieved the highest level of national recognition as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals from Healthgrades.

- Out of more than 6,000 hospitals in the country, SBUH has been ranked number 19 on Money magazine's prestigious "Best Hospitals of 2024" list. This recognition gave SBUH an "A" ranking for General Practice and underscores Stony Brook's unwavering commitment to providing the highest level of care to every Long Island resident.

To compile its new list of the Best Hospitals in America, Money crunched 13,500 data points to create the list of 115. Figures analyzed included safety records, patient satisfaction, mortality rates and healthcare practitioner experiences. Money's editorial team utilized data available from healthcare transparency firm Denniston Data to



articulate the final numbers. This is the second year for Money's Best Hospitals franchise.

- The Joint Commission surveyed Palliative Care Programs at SBUH and Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. Carolyn Santora, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief of Regulatory Affairs for SBUH shared both survey sites had no identified requirements for improvement. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment signaling the dedication of our teams.

The surveyor noted the exceptional care provided at both sites does not simply happen by accident but requires the support of the entire organization and leadership.

The Joint Commission plays a crucial role in ensuring the quality and safety of healthcare services in the United States. As an independent, nonprofit organization, the Joint Commission sets standards and accredits healthcare organizations based on these standards. They also help establish best practices and guidelines to be implemented by medical facilities. This includes standards related to patient care, medication management, infection control, and more.

- Stony Brook Southampton Hospital has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association's and the American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification. The hospital is also a designated Level III Adult Trauma Center.
- Stony Brook Southampton Hospital underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite stroke program review. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards including program management and delivering and facilitating clinical care. Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.
- Stony Brook Southampton Hospital has earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group, a national, independent nonprofit watchdog. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is an elite designation that sets the highest standards for patient safety in the United States.
- Patients at SBUH can use a new mobile app to order meals during their stays that are consistent with medical advice and that are sensitive to their diets. With this app, patients can choose the times they want meals, within the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. schedule,



and the specific foods that suit their interests and restrictions. Once patients create a dietary profile, the app can filter food options that include halal, kosher, gluten-restricted, vegetarian, cardiac, carbohydrate-controlled, and more.

While creating the menu and developing the app, Stony Brook received considerable guidance from a patient and family advisory council, which teamed up with Logsdon and Bush. The app can be accessed on any app store compatible with Apple and Android products. By ordering food that better suits patient tastes and interests, the hospital can also reduce the amount of food it discards at waste.

PERSONNEL

- Marc Finkelstein, MD, FACS, Robert Turoff, MD, FACS, and their practice Suffolk Surgical Associates have joined SBM Community Medical Group, SBM's expanding network of community practices.

Dr. Finkelstein is a board-certified surgeon with more than 30 years of experience. He received his medical degree from Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine in Mexico. He went on to complete his residency in general surgery at the New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York, and his fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at OhioHealth Grant Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Turoff brings 40 years of experience to the SBM Community Medical Group. The board-certified surgeon received his medical degree from Cornell University Medical College and completed his residency in general surgery at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, New York. He completed his surgical oncology fellowship at Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, New York, where he was an American Cancer Society Clinical Fellow.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Emergency Services

- The SBM Mobile Stroke Unit (MSU) program is completing its fifth year of service. Each MSU is in service between the hours of 8am and 8pm, seven days per week. Beginning April 1, 2024, we enhanced the hours of operation for one of the two MSUs from 7am to 11pm. This is a two-month trial to determine if additional volume warrants expanded hours on a permanent basis.
- Our Emergency Management Department recently completed the annual hazard vulnerability analysis (HVA). The HVA includes a risk assessment which is a systematic



approach to identifying hazards or risks that are most likely to have an impact on a healthcare facility and the surrounding community, (such as snowstorms, hurricanes, power outages, etc.). Conducting a risk assessment /HVA is also a requirement in the CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule. Multiple stakeholders participated in this effort including University Police, NYS DOH representatives, local EMS, fire departments, and our emergency management committee.

Heart

- The Heart Institute congratulates Ruth Johnston for accepting the CACU and CICU Nurse Specialist role. Ruth has been an outstanding member of the Cardiology nursing team since 2001 and a Cardiology Nursing Leader since 2008. She previously held nursing leadership positions as both a clinician and educator in cardiac catheterization holding, EP, non-invasive, 16 South and most recently as the overnight clinician on CACU. She has been dedicated to the Cardiology specialty for over 20 years. She leads with kindness, professionalism, and humor as a dedicated nurse leader who understands the importance of bedside nurse engagement and empowerment through her commitment to excellence.
- Significant progress has been made to improve throughput with non-invasive cardiology testing. We experienced significant improvement based on operational changes focused on staffing modifications.

Women's and Children's

- The Department of OBGYN and Women's Services kicked off the implementation of the \$750,000 NYS grant awarded with a focus on C-section reduction and improved breastfeeding rates. Workgroups will focus on expanding the midwifery centering program, breastfeeding education pre- and post-delivery that spans across inpatient and outpatient services, the use of simulation for medical and nursing education during difficult deliveries, and the identification of key quality indicators to pinpoint patients at risk for C-sections earlier in their pregnancies.
- Stony Brook Children's ambulatory practice is focused on practice efficiency and optimization for key clinical metrics. Results will drive changes in nursing support and nursing intake procedures across all ambulatory sites.
- SBM and SBCH were recognized in Castle Connolly's 2024 Exceptional Women in Medicine. Highlighting Dr. Lauri Budnick in Urogynecology, Dr. Catherine Kier in Pediatric Pulmonology in the Women's and Children's service lines for their exceptional work and dedication to their patients.



- The ACGME released its annual accreditation decisions noting all resident programs at Stony Brook Children's (Pediatric residency, Med Peds residency, GI fellowship, ID fellowship, Neonatal Perinatal medicine fellowship) received continued accreditation status.

Ancillary/Support Services

- The Recycling Department collected and recycled 59,300 pounds of mixed paper in March 2024. This notes a 9.7 percent increase over an average month.
- The SBUH Linen Services Department has again met our contractual obligation pertaining to soil linen return resulting in securing the lowest possible linen rental rate as per the NYS OGS contract. Soil return factor tonnage under 105 percent will increase rental cost by \$.01 per pound, per percentage point under the allowable returned poundage and can cost the hospital up to \$70,000 annually. To date, SBUH has never incurred this extra expense.
- The Pharmacy is completing implementation of a new software for Drug Supply Chain Security Act compliance tracking. This will afford us another layer of assurance pertaining to the level of integrity of the pharmaceuticals that we purchase and will prevent counterfeit or adulterated products from reaching our shelves.
- The Radiology department recently procured advanced OEC c-arm systems to modernize our aging fleet. These state-of-the-art devices provide reduced radiation exposure, improved image clarity, and versatile functionality tailored to vascular, musculoskeletal, and orthopedic procedures.

Human Resources

90-Day Hooray

- As part of our ongoing employee retention and engagement efforts, HR introduced and held an inaugural, "The 90 Day Hooray!" which is designed to celebrate employees who completed their first 90 days of employment and to foster a sense of belonging, appreciation, and pride. This event, which will now be held monthly, began with an Executive Welcome from Carol Gomes, CEO/COO. Employees were invited to have their photos taken with Wolfie and mingled with other employees and members of our executive and leadership team while enjoying light refreshments. Approximately 35 employees and supervisors attended the event. As a gesture of appreciation, employees received a small complementary SBM-branded item.

HR Chatbot/AI Implementation

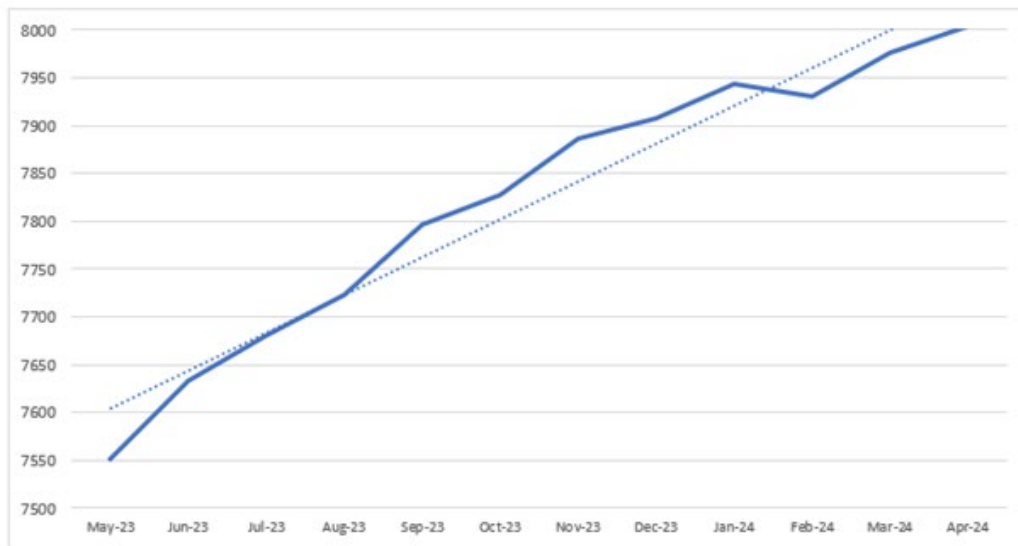
- HRbie (Pronounced Herbie) SBUH’s new chatbot/Virtual HR Assistant went live on April 4 and can assist SBUH employees 24/7 with a variety of questions related to HR benefits, including time off, employee recognition programs, HR policies, forms, and much more.

Recruitment and Retention

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

SBUH Employees – May 2023 – April 2024





Leadership Development Academy (LDA) Graduation

- The first cohort of the Leadership Development Academy concluded a 6 month-long educational experience on best practices in leadership in March. A two-hour graduation ceremony was held on April 18. The ceremony included a 10-minute Capstone Project Presentation from each team. At the end of the ceremony, guests were invited to complete a survey to share their thoughts on which projects should be implemented. Guests include the supervisors and department heads of the LDA participants, the LDA Advisors, and the SBM Executive team.

Nursing

- SBUH’s Magnet Application was submitted on March 27 and received a congratulatory letter confirming that the application was approved. As a result, we met all the criteria for initial application. Our final document due date is October 1, 2025. SBUH was assigned a Magnet Team and will be able to use the Magnet Journey logo on official papers and communications. A site visit is expected in 2026.
- CTICU RN Sabrina Sloan BSN RN CCRN has been named the Vizient/American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Nurse Resident of the Year. This is a national award and the first year this award has been presented. The Vizient Nurse Residency program, in collaboration with AACN, supports new graduate nurses to successfully transition to competent professionals.
- On March 19, Stony Brook Nursing celebrated Certified Nurses Day as established by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. There are currently 500 board certified nurses



practicing at SBUH, the highest to date. Certification provides nurses the opportunity to advance their nursing career and demonstrate a commitment to the profession by demonstrating knowledge and skills related to a specialty area.

Patient Experience

- Patient Experience team presented Health Equity Certification best practices this month to the Greater New York Hospital Association and participated in a Becker's Podcast.
- 20 new additional video remote interpretation carts were rolled out to hospital units/departments to enhance ease of use for staff throughout the hospital.
- Rosanna Ryan, Director of Patient Advocacy and Language Services was recognized by Long Island Business News for Diversity in Business Award.
- Patient Experience Emergency Department Quality Team presented a poster and improvement outcomes at the 2024 Annual Quality Presentation.
- This month, the Patient Experience Team completed Leadership Training and launched the train the trainer Compassionate Connected Care model at Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital.
- Spiritual Care is now offering spirituality group sessions on Child Psychiatry for patients.