



Stony Brook University



Stony Brook Medicine

TO: University Senate
FROM: William Wertheim, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine
DATE: May 6, 2026
SUBJECT: SBM EVP Report

ACADEMIC REPORT

School of Social Welfare Launches New Alumni Initiatives

The School of Social Welfare (SSW) has increased its efforts to reconnect with alumni, launching the first two issues of the SSW Alumni Connect newsletter and actively strengthening alumni engagement and support. Clinical Associate Professor Robin DeLuca-Aconi recently invited SSW alums to visit her class and share insights and practical tips on securing a job, navigating the early years as a school social worker, and building confidence and resilience in the school setting.

Additionally, the SSW hosted its annual BSW Community Learning and Professional Preparation Conference Day earlier this month in the HSC Galleria. The theme of this year's event was "Transitioning to the Professional World," and featured a keynote address by Shakira E. Kennedy, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers. Clinical Associate Professor Stephen Rabeno hosted an alumni panel Q&A with 3 alumni including Jeffrey Ball, BSW '23, MSW '24; Ekta Kohli, BSW '17, MSW '18; and Sarah Smith, BSW '21, MSW '22. These and future events will highlight the invaluable role SSW alumni play in supporting and inspiring current students.

School of Health Professions Hosts Interprofessional Education Day

The School of Health Professions (SHP) recently hosted 274 students for an impactful Interprofessional Education (IPE) event. Featuring a keynote on behavioral health leadership from Dr. Kristie Golden, Assistant Vice President of Operations for Neurosciences at Stony Brook University Hospital, the day focused on hands-on collaboration. Student teams competed in diverse challenges, reinforcing the vital lesson that the best patient care occurs when knowledge is shared among a unified team.

Program in Public Health Celebrates National Public Health Week

To celebrate National Public Health Week, the Program in Public Health (PPH) spearheaded a multi-faceted initiative focused on wellness and service. Highlights included sponsoring a Mindful Meditation session for campus wellbeing, organizing a dedicated 5K team, and partnering with the Seawolf Pantry and Hillel for a successful food drive. Additionally, the PPH launched a comprehensive "social media blitz" that showcased the diverse voices of students, faculty, staff, and alumni as they shared their personal commitment to the future of public health.

Yvonne Saenger Appointed Chief of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Following a rigorous national search, Yvonne Saenger has been appointed Chief of the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology in the RSOM's Department of Medicine, effective September 1. A nationally recognized physician-scientist in tumor immunology and immunotherapy, Dr. Saenger joins from the Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she held multiple leadership roles, including Co-Leader of the Cancer Therapeutics Program and Director of Cellular Therapeutics for Solid Tumors. Her research — supported by the NIH, including a current R01 focusing on pathological biosignatures for aggressive melanoma — has advanced the understanding and treatment of melanoma and gastrointestinal cancers, including pioneering early clinical trials in immunotherapy. In her new role, Dr. Saenger will partner closely with the Stony Brook Cancer Center to expand translational research and clinical trials and strengthen cellular therapeutics and solid tumor programs. She will also mentor the next generation of physicians and scientists, further advancing the institution's clinical, research and educational missions.

Meredith Slopen Receives Upjohn Institute Early Career Research Award

Meredith Slopen, assistant professor in the SSW, was one of 10 recipients of the Upjohn Institute Early Career Research Award. Her project examines how paid sick leave, job security, and workplace flexibility affect older workers, particularly those managing health and caregiving needs. The research highlights policies that support workforce attachment and economic security amid new work requirements for adults 55+.

Allison McLarty Selected as Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Fellow

Allison McLarty, General Ting Feng Cheng Endowed Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery and chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery in the RSOM's Department of Surgery, has been selected as a 2026–27 Fellow of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program—one of the nation's most prestigious leadership fellowships for senior faculty in academic health centers. A highly competitive, year-long program based at Drexel University, ELAM is the only longitudinal leadership initiative in North America dedicated to preparing faculty at the associate and full professor level for executive roles, equipping participants with the skills, networks and strategic insight needed to lead in complex healthcare environments. Dr. McLarty's selection reflects both her demonstrated leadership and national standing, and she becomes the fifth faculty member from Stony Brook to be chosen for this distinguished program, further underscoring the institution's growing presence in developing leaders in academic medicine.

Debbie Zelizer Recognized as "CELT's Biggest Fan"

Debbie Zelizer, SHP Clinical Associate Professor and Chair of Health Science, received the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching's "Biggest Fan" Award. This honor recognizes Dr. Zelizer's tireless advocacy for inclusive, student-centered, and evidence-based teaching. Whether through innovative course design or the adoption of new educational technology, Deb continues to be a leading voice for excellence within the School of Health Professions.

Melissa Earle Represents SSW CASAC Program

Melissa J. Earle, SSW clinical associate professor and director of the Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) program and addictions education, served as a panelist at the Helio Health Integrated Care Conference 2026, themed “Healing Beyond Diagnosis – Integrating Minds, Bodies and Systems.” Dr. Earle participated in a panel hosted by the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports, alongside agency leadership, program graduates, and service providers, offering insights into workforce development initiatives and sharing perspectives from the field. During the session, she highlighted the SSW’s educational offerings, including two CASAC training programs and a CASAC pathway within the MSW program.

[Study Points Toward Immune Reprogramming to Treat Candidiasis](#)

A new study published in *Cell Host & Microbe* identifies immune metabolic reprogramming as a promising new strategy to treat systemic candidiasis, a serious and increasingly difficult-to-treat fungal infection. Led by Partha Biswas of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, the research demonstrates that neutrophils—key immune cells responsible for clearing fungal infections—can adapt to glucose-limited environments by activating an enzyme (PYGL) that mobilizes internal energy stores to sustain antifungal activity. This finding highlights a previously unrecognized metabolic pathway that could be therapeutically targeted to enhance the body’s own immune response, rather than relying solely on traditional antifungal drugs, which face challenges such as resistance and limited effectiveness. The work points toward a potential shift in treating invasive fungal infections by reprogramming immune cell function to improve patient outcomes

New Research Highlights the Power of Adaptive Sports

A new study by Daniel Joseph Lee, Chair of Physical Therapy; Rosalia Casanova, Clinical Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy; James Pierre-Glaude, Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy; and Eric M. Lamberg, SHP Associate Dean explores how amputee soccer serves as a vital "anchor point" for individuals with limb loss. Published research indicates that the sense of belonging found in adaptive sports often exceeds that of traditional support groups, allowing disability to become relative and authentic to thrive.

[New Research Reconsiders the Cause of Hydrocephalus](#)

Findings from a study led by Michael Egnor, Professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics, challenge a century-old understanding of hydrocephalus and points toward potential new treatment strategies. Published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*, the study proposes that the condition is not primarily caused by impaired cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) absorption, as long believed, but instead by the brain’s inability to absorb pulsatile energy generated by the heartbeat. Using a novel electrical circuit to simulate CSF dynamics, Dr. Egnor and colleagues suggest that hydrocephalus is better understood as a disorder of the brain’s windkessel system, which normally dampens pulsatile blood flow through cerebral capillaries. This framework more accurately explains the disease’s underlying physiology and suggests that therapies targeting abnormal pulsatile forces, rather than fluid buildup alone, may offer more effective treatment.

Kristen Brock-Petroshius Presents at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology

SSW Assistant Professor Kristen Brock-Petroshius recently presented at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention in Chicago as part of an applied social psychology symposium titled "Situating Racial Justice Intervention Research within the Translational Research Framework."

Additionally, Dr. Brock-Petroshius recently had an article published in the Scholars Strategy Network for her research titled "[Discussing Race and Identity Doesn't Have to Result in Backlash.](#)"

Strengthening the Healthcare Pipeline: Radiologic Technology

On March 31st, Radiologic Technology Program Director William Brennan hosted over 80 aspiring healthcare professionals for an immersive look into the Radiologic Technology clinical concentration in the SHP's Health Science major. By engaging directly with faculty and current student Michael Perez, participants moved beyond the classroom to see the real-world impact of diagnostic imaging. The experience is designed to help prepare the next generation of clinicians to meet patient care demands with precision and expertise.

[PMHNP Student Timothy Park Wins Sarah B. Pasternack Essay Contest](#)

Timothy Park, a student in the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) master's program at the Stony Brook University School of Nursing, is one of two winners of the 2026 Sarah B. Pasternack Nursing Student Essay Contest. Conducted by the Nursing Archives Associates of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center at Boston University, the contest is open to both undergraduate and graduate nursing students. One winning essay is selected from each; Timothy is the winner of the graduate student category. He receives a \$500 prize and is invited to read his essay at a future Nursing Archives Associates board meeting. The 2026 contest's theme was "Inspired to Become a Nurse," and students were prompted to address what inspired them to pursue a career in nursing and how their inspiration relates to a significant historical figure or event.

School of Social Welfare Students Recognized for Academic Achievement

Six Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students were honored at the recent SBU Academic Achievement Award ceremony, which acknowledged students who maintained a 4.0 GPA for at least two semesters with a cumulative GPA of 3.85 or higher. Less than 250 students were recognized for this achievement, representing under 1-percent of the SBU undergraduate student body.

Additionally, BSW student Kamilah Pasha and MSW student Rachel Bennett, were named as recipients of the NYS Society for Clinical Social Work's Nassau Chapter BSW and MSW scholarships for 2026. Both students will be honored at a luncheon in June.

PPH Student Earns 3MT® Competition Success

Program in Public Health PhD student Meroona Gopang participated at this year's Three-Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition. Representing the PPH graduate research community, Meroona successfully distilled complex doctoral research into a compelling, three-minute presentation for a general audience. In preparation for the event, students refined their delivery through specialized coaching from the Alan Alda

Center for Communicating Science, demonstrating Stony Brook's commitment to making high-level research accessible and impactful.

RSOM Showcases Student Research

The RSOM's Office of Undergraduate Medical Education held its annual Scholarly Concentrations Program (SCP) Research Day on April 20, highlighting the scholarly work of Class of 2026 medical students in collaboration with faculty mentors. The program featured a series of oral presentations along with more than 40 posters spanning a wide range of student-driven research initiatives. As a four-year academic track, the SCP enables students to explore focused areas of interest in medicine while building research skills, mentorship connections, and experiences that complement their clinical training.

The Department of Surgery will convene its annual Research Day on Wednesday, May 6, in the MART Auditorium. Established in 2010, the yearly event has provided a forum for residents to present research that advances surgical science and practice. The program will include oral platform presentations and a poster competition featuring contributions from residents, medical students, and faculty.

Celebrating Lab Week 2026: "To Infinity and Beyond"

In honor of Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, the SHP's Clinical Laboratory Science students brought the lab to the community. Through interactive stations, including DNA extraction and diagnostic logic puzzles, students demonstrated the critical role laboratory experts play in ensuring patient safety and accurate diagnosis.

52nd Renaissance School of Medicine Convocation on May 19

The 52nd RSOM Convocation will honor the Class of 2026 on Tuesday, May 19 in the Stony Brook Arena on West Campus. This year's keynote speaker is Susan E. Quaggin, Irving S. Cutter Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University, where she serves as Chair of the Department of Medicine and Director of the Feinberg Cardiovascular and Renal Research Institute. An internationally recognized physician-scientist in nephrology and vascular biology, Dr. Quaggin's research has advanced understanding of kidney and eye disease and identified novel therapeutic targets. A member of the Association of American Physicians and National Academy of Medicine, and a former president of the American Society of Nephrology, she has received numerous top honors in the field and authored more than 200 publications.

CLINICAL REPORT

AWARDS, ACCOLADES & NEWS:

- In a showcase of Stony Brook Medicine's (SBM) most advanced clinical capabilities, President Andrea Goldsmith visited Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) for East Campus Day on April 16, 2026, as part of her Inauguration Week events.

The morning began with a yogurt breakfast spearheaded by the Nutrition Division and skillfully prepared by Windows Catering, highlighting the importance of foods promoting brain health. Building on this theme of innovation and well-being, Executive Vice President of SBM William Wertheim, MD, MBA, delivered opening remarks, noting President Goldsmith's impact.

David Fiorella, MD, PhD, director of the Stony Brook Cerebrovascular Center and co-director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center, then led a presentation on Long Island's only Mobile Stroke Unit (MSU) Program. Accompanied by Dr. Wertheim and Carol Gomes, CEO of SBUH, the president received an in-depth overview of the program and toured its newest unit, dedicated to serving the East End.

The MSU Program launched in April 2019 and remains Long Island's only program of its kind. Serving more than 45 different communities and working in collaboration with fire and EMS agencies that provide ambulance response in Suffolk County, the MSU team provides specialized, life-saving care to people within the critical moments of stroke, before they even reach the hospital.

President Goldsmith also had the opportunity to experience a live demonstration of SBM's state-of-the-art robotic platforms, including the da Vinci 5 surgical system, Ion robotic bronchoscopy platform, and SimNow robotic training simulator — technologies that have positioned SBM as the regional leader in advanced robotic care and surgical innovation. These platforms have expanded access to minimally invasive procedures, improved precision and safety, and accelerated recovery for patients across multiple specialties.

The demonstration highlighted how SBM's integrated robotics ecosystem - spanning clinical care, simulation, and education - has differentiated the institution from other health systems on Long Island and beyond. Following the demonstration, the robots remained on display with hands-on opportunities for staff throughout the day.

The President also experienced a series of short TED Talks along the Brook by researchers discussing their advancements in brain health. She sat down for lunch with students from the RSOM and schools of Health Professions and Nursing and ended the day with an academic overview by each of the health science schools as well as the Program in Public Health.

- SBUH has received the inaugural LiveOnNY Legacies 2026 Award, honoring the hospital as one of the top five donor hospitals in 2025 based on performance and measurable impact in organ donation. The recognition reflects SBUH's leadership and sustained commitment to advancing organ donation in collaboration with LiveOnNY and focus on honoring the wishes of donor heroes.

According to the National Kidney Foundation, about 26 million Americans have chronic kidney disease. Over 100,000 people are on the waiting list for kidney transplants. With deceased donor kidney wait times averaging 3–7 years, living donation is an increasingly important option. What makes it even more attractive today are the excellent safety and success rates for living donor transplants.

As Long Island's longest-running active transplant program, SBM brings extensive experience caring for both adult and pediatric transplant recipients and living donors. To date Stony Brook has performed more than 630 transplants using living donors, and that number is growing. Between 2023 and 2024, an impressive 25-30% of our kidney transplants came from living donors.

Alongside SBUH's recognition, Jonathan Buscaglia, MD, FASGE, AGAF, Chief Medical Officer, and Dawn Francisquini, MSN, BS, RN, CCTC, Administrative Director of Transplantation Services, were honored with the 'Donor Champion Award' - LiveOnNY's highest distinction—for their unwavering commitment to advancing organ donation.

- SBUH has been designated as one of America's Best Hospitals for Cancer Care in 2026 by the Women's Choice Award®, America's trusted referral source for the best in health care. This recognition places SBUH among the top-performing hospitals nationwide, ranking in the top 5% of hospitals that offer cancer care services.

The Women's Choice Award for Best Hospitals™ identifies the nation's top hospitals based on rigorous criteria, including clinical performance, patient satisfaction, and relevant accreditations. Hospitals earning this designation demonstrate a strong commitment to delivering exceptional care and prioritizing the health and well-being of their patients. As the only award that incorporates the preferences of women in its methodology, the Women's Choice Award empowers women to make informed healthcare decisions with confidence. In fact, 84% of women say they would trust a hospital more if it carried the Women's Choice Award seal, making it a powerful symbol of quality and trust.

As Suffolk County's only academic medical center, SBM delivers advanced treatment with compassionate care, offering patients access to leading-edge therapies and clinical trials without leaving the region. The mission of Stony Brook Cancer Center (SBCC) is to reduce patients' suffering from cancer by providing world-class, multidisciplinary care close to home, conducting innovative research, educating patients and healthcare professionals, and partnering with our community to reach underserved populations. Our multidisciplinary teams include surgeons, oncologists, nurses, and social workers who collaborate with patients and families at every stage for personalized treatment and recovery. Physician-scientists drive groundbreaking research to uncover cancer mechanisms and develop new therapies, while RSOM trains future specialists who bring the latest practices to the bedside.

- Dr. Wertheim has been named one of Crain's New York Business 2026 Notable Leaders in Healthcare. This prestigious recognition honors professionals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in healthcare, driven meaningful organizational advancement and contributed significantly to their institutions and the broader medical community.

Under Dr. Wertheim's leadership, SBM has advanced as a fully integrated academic health system, bringing together patient-centered care, education, and innovative research to better serve the

communities of Long Island. Dr. Wertheim has spent nearly three decades at SBM, during which he has risen from practicing internist to system-wide executive leadership, reflecting a career defined by purpose, vision, and an enduring commitment to the communities SBM serves.

This recognition underscores the continued progress of SBM under Dr. Wertheim's leadership, as the organization expands access to care, advances research and education, and meets the evolving healthcare needs of Long Island communities.

- Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital (SBELIH) has achieved Primary Stroke Center designation from the Joint Commission. This expands access to advanced, coordinated stroke care for communities on the East End of Long Island.

The Joint Commission is an independent organization that accredits and certifies healthcare organizations by evaluating them against strict quality and safety standards, ensuring high-quality, safe care.

The designation follows more than two years of planning, education, and collaboration across the hospital's multidisciplinary stroke team, including clinical, diagnostic, quality, infection prevention, and operational staff, to meet national standards for stroke care, patient safety, and performance improvement.

Receiving Primary Stroke Center designation from the Joint Commission also earns SBELIH a Primary Stroke Center designation in the NYS Stroke Services Program by the NYS Department of Health, recognizing hospitals capable of treating complex stroke patients as quickly as possible at the right place.

Stroke care at SBELIH is supported by coordinated protocols, rapid assessment, continuous access to imaging and laboratory services, infection prevention, and ongoing performance monitoring to always ensure readiness.

SBELIH is a hospital serving a geographically unique region with a high proportion of adults aged 65 and older, a population at increased risk for stroke and related complications. This is a significant achievement for our hospital and further demonstrates SBM's commitment to delivering advanced, coordinated care close to home for the communities we serve.

PERSONNEL UPDATES:

- Dr. Sherwin Park was recently appointed Medical Director of the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) at SBM. Dr. Park is a proud Stony Brook alumnus. He earned his MD from the Stony Brook University School of Medicine and completed his residency in Anesthesiology at SBUH in 2015. His clinical interests include both regional and pediatric anesthesiology.

Since 2019, Dr. Park has served as Associate Medical Director of the ASC, demonstrating strong leadership, dedication, and a collaborative spirit. He brings both the experience and the temperament well suited for this important role.

SERVICE LINE UPDATES:

Emergency Medicine:

- SBM has received approval from the NYSDOH to allow our ambulance that is stationed at the East Hampton Emergency Department 24/7 to respond to 911 calls in the region, as requested by the local EMS agencies. Our team plans to meet with these EMS agencies to determine the appropriate level of assistance needed and will operationalize this process. It is anticipated that the volume of responses will be low, however it provides a back-up response of an advanced life support ambulance, as needed.
- SBM continues to provide 24/7 coverage to the North Fork, including Shelter Island, with three first responder vehicles. Each vehicle is staffed by one paramedic and has a full complement of advanced life support equipment. We respond to 100% of the 911 calls from Mattituck to Orient (including Shelter Island) if vehicles are not on other calls. We are dispatched simultaneously with the local EMS agency. This ensures a timely response from an advanced life support provider to all calls. This service has featured prominently in the local press as several local EMS agencies on the North Fork recently lost the ability to provide advanced life support due to issues with their management of controlled medications.

Heart Institute:

- Effective April 1, 2026, the Cardiac Coronary Care Unit (CCU) transitioned to a closed model. Under this structure all patients admitted to/upgraded to the CCU will be admitted to the full-time faculty cardiology attending who will assume primary responsibility. Also, Stony Brook Community Medicine/hospital part-time and private cardiologists will continue to follow their patients, write notes, and remain as involved in their patient's care as they desire. The goal is to provide 24/7, seamless, critical care to all our cardiology patients. The standard is to maintain open and ongoing communication between full-time faculty and SBCM/private attendings to ensure coordinated, high-quality care.
- The Stony Brook Executive Governance Committee has approved The Heart Institute brand name change to reflect the service line's integrated approach align cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, and vascular surgery services. The new name "The Stony Brook Heart and Vascular Institute" brand amplifies growth and referral pathways, enhances visibility and rankings, elevate faculty recruitment and academic reputation, and strengthen multidisciplinary clinical integration.
- The Heart and Vascular Institute welcomed 148 visitors to the Port Jefferson Wellness Fair, providing blood pressure screenings, heart health risk assessments, and heart attack education. Many attendees expressed genuine appreciation for having a supportive space to connect, learn, and manage their cardiac health. Registration cards were distributed featuring a QR code for upcoming support events were distributed to attendees.

Neurosciences Institute:

- At the 38th Annual Eastern Nursing Research Society meeting, a poster presentation by Andrea Kabacinski, MS, RN, and colleagues titled “Does the Performance of an Enhanced Fall Risk Assessment Tool Have Similar Outcomes When Used Within a Different Electronic Health Record to Predict Fall Risk? One Academic Medical Center’s Experience” received first place in the clinical research category. This project is the first phase of a two-part study examining the use of predictive analytics to identify fall risk in hospitalized patients, compared with validated, subjective nursing fall risk assessment tools.
- To meet community demand, SBELIH continues to expand available mental health and addiction services on the East End. Our request to the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to establish a new location in East Hampton for outpatient services has been assigned for review. OASAS has given permission to begin the renovations and subsequent operational planning. Approximately \$275,000 in capital is needed to renovate the space. This effort ties to the 24/7 telepsychiatry services recently launched to SBSH and the East Hampton Emergency Department, via the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) faculty. Once evaluated via telepsychiatry, patients will need a local location to receive any ambulatory follow-up services needed.
- Discussions are in progress to establish a process to bring electroencephalogram (EEG) services to SBELIH. New, user-friendly, portable cap systems are now available for real-time monitoring and diagnosis. The caps can be placed by a variety of appropriately trained multidisciplinary staff and read remotely by neurologists. This is a service that has not been available and is important to SBELIH in their effort to triage and treat patients presenting in the emergency department with neurological concerns. This will help keep low-risk patients in their home community and decrease the need to transfer them to SBUH for the procedure.
- SBM’s Parkinson’s Centers, which include the Parkinson’s and Movement Disorders Center at SBUH and the Center of Parkinson’s Disease at SBSH, are the recipients of a two-year Information and Referral Center Innovative Project Award totaling \$150,000 from the American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA).

Parkinson's is the second-most common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer's disease, with men 1.5 times more likely to have PD than women. While the incidence of PD increases with age, an estimated 4% of people with PD are diagnosed before age 50. The APDA approximates that there are 1 million people in the United States living with PD and that 90,000 people are diagnosed each year.

This new award will allow SBM’s interdisciplinary Parkinson’s teams to grow programs, expand care partner services, reinforce clinical-community integration across the region, enhance outreach, add additional classes to SBSH’s programs, and further deepen SBM’s partnership with HOPE Fitness, an independent organization dedicated to making fitness accessible for all abilities.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Essential Services:

- Radiology has officially accepted the new SPECT/CT system at the ACP Imaging Center. The new SPECT/CT will allow us to begin transitioning outpatient nuclear medicine studies from the hospital to the ACP Imaging Center, streamlining workflow, reducing congestion within the hospital, and improving access for outpatients. The ER CT scanner's faster acquisition times will further support efficient patient flow by reducing wait times and improving throughput during peak hours. Overall, the SPECT/CT system provides reduced scan times with significantly enhanced image quality, improving both efficiency and diagnostic accuracy. Shifting outpatient nuclear medicine exams to ACP will increase convenience for patients, expand outpatient throughput, and create opportunities for staff rotation between the hospital and outpatient sites, strengthening operational flexibility and cross-coverage across the department.
- The Histology laboratory continues to integrate digital pathology workflow. Allowing more staff to be cross trained on the technical aspects of digital pathology further enhances the timely review of pathology cases. Fully integrating the workflow into the laboratory space will also allow for a more streamlined process from pathology case assembly to digital scanning. This will improve turnaround time variability.
- In the Cytogenetics lab, the Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 1 (FGFR1) FISH probe was recently approved by the NYSDOH, to be used in the detection of translocations, rearrangements, and amplifications of the fibroblast growth factor receptor 1 gene located at chromosome 8p11.2. It is the primary diagnostic tool for identifying 8p11 Myeloproliferative Syndrome, also known as Stem Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma.
- The Pharmacy has saved \$6.38 million this fiscal year in wholesaler charges for pharmaceuticals by continually ensuring prompt and accurate invoice payments. SBUH has achieved the most favorable discounted rate tier available through our pharmaceutical wholesaler, Cardinal.
- The SBUH Pharmacy Practice Residency Program matched all four positions this year with our four first choice residency candidates. In addition, our 3 current PGY-1 pharmacy practice residents who applied for PGY-2 positions all matched with their first choices, including Johns Hopkins for Oncology and NYU for Pediatrics. The fact that our residents all matched with their first choices in a highly competitive PGY-2 match environment speaks to the exceptional quality of our residency program.
- To improve department efficiency and reduce costs, the Respiratory Care Department has submitted an Assay Modification packet to NYSDOH regarding pleural fluid pH samples. Blood gas analyzers are the gold standard for pleural fluid pH analysis. Our newer Radiometer blood gas analyzers are only approved for whole blood pH analysis; therefore, the modification request has been made to allow a change of sample type, specifically pleural fluid pH. Once approved by NYS we will be able to decommission the outdated and expensive to maintain Roche device.

Information technology:

- The Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics labs are working to implement new testing guidelines for *Clostridium difficile* testing that limits retesting within 7 days of a previous result. There will also be further guidance highlighting that a previously positive patient should not be retested for at least 14 days, if not longer since microbial genetic material can remain even after successful treatment. Together, these guidelines will not only help steward over-utilization of testing but will help reduce overtreatment of patients.

Patient Experience:

- Nicole Rossol, Chief Patient Experience Officer, presented at the SBM Town Hall on the system-wide implementation of the Press Ganey iRound platform to improve rounding practices.
- Margaret Stern, Patient Experience Educator is the new co-chair of the SBM Patient and Family Advisory Council.
- The Patient Advocacy Team from SUNY, Stony Brook and Upstate participated in a joint site visit to align best practices for managing grievance and complaint compliance throughout the SUNY System.
- Rani Goldman, Chaplain/Bereavement Coordinator, is providing interim coverage for the Department of Spiritual Care as a search for a director continues.
- A new Health Literacy process was initiated using Microsoft co-pilot to review patient facing education at a 6th grade reading level in accordance with the Center for Disease Control recommendations. The content creators will provide final approval, and this process will improve timely review of patient education materials.