



**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** William Wertheim, MD, MBA  
Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine  
**DATE:** August 26, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** EVP Report

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## ACADEMIC UPDATES

### **FDA Approves Stony Brook Licensed Technology for Clinical Trials**

Six years after Stony Brook licensed a technology to Artelo Biosciences that targets Fatty Acid Binding Proteins (FABPs) in the endocannabinoid system, with the potential to treat pain, inflammation and cancer, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first compound, ART26.12, for human clinical trials to treat chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in cancer patients. The research originated with Martin Kaczocha, Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology; Iwao Ojima, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemistry; and Dale Deutsch, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology. Clinical trials are expected to begin internationally in 2025.

### **[School of Social Welfare Receives \\$2M Award Through New York's Opioid Settlement Fund \(SB News\)](#)**

Building on the School of Social Welfare's (SSW) strong partnership with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), the SSW has been awarded an additional, new contract that will provide support for master of social work (MSW) students interested in working in the field of addiction and substance use. Through this \$2 million OASAS contract, over the next two years, the SSW will be able to allocate significant financial awards to eligible MSW students and also to their practicum instructors.

### **[Stony Brook Offering New Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program \(SB News\)](#)**

The Stony Brook University School of Health Professions is converting its occupational therapy (OT) educational offerings to a new doctoral program that begins with its first students in June. This will be the first State University of New York (SUNY) Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program on Long Island and in the New York metropolitan region, and only the second one on Long Island.



### **Renaissance School of Medicine Welcomes New Class During White Coat Ceremony**

The Renaissance School of Medicine (RSOM) held its White Coat and Alumni Awards Ceremony on August 9, and 136 incoming students officially began their medical school training by taking the Hippocratic Oath and wearing their physician “white coats” for the first time. The school interviewed 866 candidates out of over 5,300 applicants and extended 433 offers—a 7.5% decrease from 2023—to fill its 2024 entering class. The class comprises 74 women (54%), aligning with the national applicant pool, and 29% come from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with many being the first in their families to earn a college degree. The school admitted 31 out-of-state and three international students. The academic credentials of the class are particularly impressive, with a median MCAT score of 516 (92nd percentile) and median Science and Total GPAs of 3.91 and 3.93, respectively. The students represent 57 different colleges and universities; Stony Brook University had the most representation, as 33 students earned their undergraduate degrees at the institution.

### **Richard and Mary Truhlar Establish Endowed Scholarship for Dental Education**

Mary Truhlar, DDS '84, Professor in the Department of General Dentistry, along with her late husband Rich, DDS '83, established the Drs. Richard and Mary Truhlar Endowed Scholarship, a fund designated to help fund the dental education of prospective students from Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) in New York. Adding to its impact, endowment gifts to The State University of New York institutions in 2024 are matched by 50 percent from the New York State Matching Fund for Endowment Contributions program. More than five million people in the state live in dental HPSAs, categorized by the United States Health Resources and Service Administration as regions with one dentist or fewer for every 5,000 residents or more. Thirty-eight percent of counties upstate are dental HPSAs.

### **Healthy Libraries Program Recognized by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative**

The Program in Public Health's Healthy Libraries Program (HeLP) received national recognition this year by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative and the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Foundation as a 2024 Honoree (honorable mention: public health infrastructure) for the Excellence in Interprofessional Education Collaboration Award. The award was received on July 12th at the IPEC Membership meeting and IPEC/COF Award Ceremony. The award, which showcases multidisciplinary efforts to impact community health, is presented to a team of health-professional school-based collaborators (faculty, administrators, and/or students) who have innovatively addressed a public health issue while making a lasting impact on the community's health.



### **School of Social Welfare Hosts Conference on Working with Latine/x Students and Creating Trauma Sensitive Schools**

The School of Social Welfare hosted more than 170 social workers representing public and private schools in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The inaugural event was co-sponsored with the NYS School Social Workers Association and was organized by Robin DeLuca-Acconi, Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Social Welfare and Director of SSW Workforce Development, Programs and Partnerships. The conference was an opportunity for school social workers to network and share innovative resources, intervention strategies and best practices.

### **Clare Whitney Awarded Mary J. Finnin Grant for Nursing Innovation in Oncology**

Clare Whitney, Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, received the Center for Nursing's Mary J. Finnin Grant for Nursing Innovation in Oncology for her research on the experiences and strategies in navigating the moral and ethical dimensions of cancer care partners who support their loved ones through their cancer journey. The award is given annually to a qualified registered nurse who is interested in pursuing nursing innovation in the field of oncology.

### **School of Social Welfare Faculty Receive SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence**

Robin DeLuca-Acconi, Clinical Associate Professor, received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching & Service. Suzanne L. Velázquez, Clinical Professor and Director of the Social Work Undergraduate Program, received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are conferred to acknowledge recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence.

### **Sandeep Mallipattu and James Pierre-Glaude Awarded Provost's Outstanding Mentor Award**

Sandeep Mallipattu, DCI-Liebowitz Endowed Professor and Chief of the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension in the Renaissance School of Medicine and James Pierre-Glaude, Clinical Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy and Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the School of Health Professions were selected as recipients of the 2024 Provost's Outstanding Mentor Award. The award acknowledges faculty mentors for their exceptional commitment to mentoring and supporting the intellectual, creative, scholarly and professional growth of their faculty mentees. Dr. Mallipattu also received the RSOM's Excellence in Faculty Mentorship Award last fall.



### **Faculty Recognized by the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching**

Each year, Stony Brook University's Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) hosts its Celebration of Teaching to acknowledge the efforts of educators who use exceptional teaching practices, dispositions, and proficiencies. These instructors demonstrate outstanding passion for teaching, personal concern for students, and a devotion to inspire and nurture a desire for learning in their students. Kathleen McGoldrick, Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Health Professions, was recognized for her excellence in accessible teaching as the inaugural recipient of CELT's Brooke Ellison Award for Accessible Teaching. This award is named for the late Dr. Brooke Ellison, an associate professor in the SHP who was dedicated to advocating for accessibility in technology and healthcare. Rewa Thompson, Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, received the David L. Ferguson Award for Inclusive Teaching. This recognition is a testament of outstanding dedication to fostering an inclusive learning environment and a commitment to inclusive education.

### **Lisa Muratori Receives Seed Grant Award**

Lisa Muratori, Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, received a \$50,000 award from the Stony Brook Office of the Vice President for Research's Seed Grant Program for her multidisciplinary project, "Engineering Gait Rehabilitation in Parkinson's Disease through Music and AI." Dr. Muratori will serve as principal investigator, along with collaborators Petar Djuric (Electrical and Computer Engineering); Margaret Schedel (Music); Joshua Plotkin (Neurobiology and Behavior); and Shubham Jain and IV Ramakrishnan (Computer Science).

### **Renaissance School of Medicine Welcomes New Faculty and Department Chairs**

The Renaissance School of Medicine significantly bolstered its faculty over the summer with the addition of two new department chairs and a new chief for a new division. On August 15, the Department of Emergency Medicine welcomed its new Chair, Imoigele (Imo) Aisiku, who came to Stony Brook after more than a decade at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School. After spending more than two decades at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, Joe Verghese joins as the new Chair of the Department of Neurology, starting October 14. Anne Felicia Ambrose, who worked for eight years at Montefiore Einstein, will become Chief of a new Division of Neuro-Rehabilitation within the Department of Neurology effective on November 1. Additionally, Sritha Rajupet was named Chair of the Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine, effective August 1. Dr. Rajupet has led the department since her appointment as Interim Chair last fall.



### **School of Dental Medicine Welcomes New Faculty and Leadership**

The School of Dental Medicine appointed Brian J. Howe as its new associate dean of clinical operations and patient care. Dr. Howe, who began his new position in July, had most recently served as a clinical associate professor in the Department of Family Dentistry, as well as the director of clinics, at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in Iowa City, Iowa. Howe will also serve as a faculty member in its Department of General Dentistry. Alexandra Makara joined the SDM as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry in August. Makara came to Stony Brook after finishing her pediatric dentistry residency at University of Rochester Eastman Institute for Oral Health.

### **School of Health Professions Hosts Inaugural 2024 Pre-College Summer Program**

During the week of July 15th, the School of Health Professions partnered with the School of Professional Development for the inaugural 2024 Pre-College Summer Program. Twenty high school students experienced the dynamic world of healthcare, including a simulated car accident and subsequent EMS response and extrication. Throughout the week, students were expertly guided by SHP faculty and staff, exploring diverse careers in the health professions through hands-on experiences that demonstrated interprofessional collaboration among the healthcare team. Special thanks to Stony Brook's Division of Enterprise Risk Management, Stony Brook EMS, the Fire Safety Division and the University Police Department for their collaboration.

### **Renaissance School of Medicine Hosts Science and Research Awareness Series**

Last month, Stony Brook Medicine's Science and Research Awareness Series (SARAS) celebrated 20 years of hosting high school-age aspiring doctors for an informative and influential primer into the profession. Sponsored by the Department of Anesthesiology, 125 high school and undergraduate students participated over a three-week period in lectures, workshops, discussions and hands-on experiences related to topics in biomedical sciences. Founded in 2004 by Srinivas Pentyala, Professor and Director of Translational Research and SARAS Coordinator in the Department of Anesthesiology, the program has had a tremendous impact on more than 2,000 students over the last two decades.

### **School of Dental Medicine Hosts inaugural Dive Into Dental Sciences Summer Program**

Twenty pre-college students took part in Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine's inaugural Dive Into Dental Sciences summer program. Over the week, they participated in a variety of hands-on activities in the SDM's preclinical laboratory, under the tutelage of Stony Brook dental students, staff and faculty, including using high-speed dental handpieces and other instruments, making



cavity preparations, creating typodont impressions and stone models, and fabricating athletic mouth guards, among other tasks.

### **School of Social Welfare Students Recognized**

Doris Minder and Natasha Cruz, 2nd year MSW students were awarded financial scholarships from the Latino Social Work Coalition for their service to underserved communities. The scholarships are awarded to Latino students with financial need who are dedicated to strengthening the pipeline of Latino and bilingual social workers working with low-income and underserved communities.

Three recent graduates from the Class of 2024 Master of Social Work program were accepted to the 2024-2026 New York State Excelsior Fellowship Cohort. Kayla Berretta, MSW '2024, Antonia Bruno, MSW '2024, and Estee Sigal, MSW '2024 received the NYS Excelsior Service Fellowship, an initiative that brings talented, recent graduates of professional and graduate schools into government service.

Melissa Torregrossa, who graduated with a Master of Social Work and a specialization in Community Policy and Political Social Action, was elected to the Connetquot Central School District Board of Education. "It was clear that my passion in the social work discipline was to support communities through lasting policy change and decision making, thus I chose to specialize in Community, Policy and Political Social Action," she stated.

### **Chloe Beninati Receives Foundation for Endodontics and Dentsply Sirona Freedom Scholarship**

Chloe Beninati, DDS/MPH '22, a second-year endodontics resident at the School of Dental Medicine, received the prestigious Foundation for Endodontics and Dentsply Sirona Freedom Scholarship. The \$50,000 scholarship is given annually to three second- or third-year endodontics residents at programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), helping to offset the cost of their tuition. Awardees were chosen based on their academic performance in dental school and their residency, a personal statement about their career aspirations, letters of recommendation and expenses associated with their endodontic residency training program.

### **Clinical Laboratory Science Students Recognized by the American Society for Clinical Pathology**

Clinical Laboratory Science student Kailey Kipping '25 received the 2024 American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Foundation Laboratory Student Scholarship, which supports academically high-achieving laboratory students with expenses related to their education. Mia



Wattley '26 received the ASCP Inaugural Dr. Alvin Ring Empowerment Scholarship for Laboratory Professionals, which aims to provide financial aid to those pursuing higher education in the medical laboratory sciences. To foster a more inclusive and diverse laboratory workforce, this scholarship recognizes students from underrepresented populations or from underserved areas, seeking to serve underserved communities.

### **FY24 SBM Strategic Goals Summary of Accomplishments**

Overarching Themes:

- Workforce and Culture
- Patient Access and Quality Care
- Education and Research Excellence

#### **We worked together to enhance our culture and work environment, to recognize and retain an exceptional workforce.**

- We sent messages of gratitude to peers and staff more often; Electronic Star Card giving was up 20% and Superstar cards doubled.
- We implemented informal Senior Management feedback opportunities; held 32 Peanut sessions and 20 Red Sneaker Rounds. We held six Town Halls to enhance staff communication.
- We conducted an equity review and implemented salary adjustments for 500+ APP's.
- We put in place new faculty compensation plans in six departments.

#### **We Filled Critical Positions**

- William A. Wertheim, MD, MBA, appointed Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine
- In total we hired 180 new faculty: 89 new and 91 replacements.
- Our recruitment plan efforts resulted in a total of 64 net new providers for SBM.
- We hired 28 new providers on the East End resulting in 14K net new patients.
- We hired Emily Mastaler, MA, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital
- Appointed interim department chairs in Anatomical Sciences, Physiology and Biophysics, Neurology, and Family, Population and Preventive Medicine
- Hired Vice Dean for Research, Chair of Emergency Medicine, Associate Dean for Clinical Integration, RSOM Associate Dean for Clinical Services, School of Dental Medicine; Associate Dean of Research and Innovation, School of Nursing; and Department administrators in Surgery, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Physiology and Pharmacology





### **We Improved Patient Access**

- Over the last FY across faculty, SBCM and MHL practices, SBM experienced total growth in visits of +6.1% and new patient growth of +5.0%.
- No show rates have decreased by 2.1%.
- Over the last 5 months of the last fiscal year, we have decreased new patient appointment lag 0.6 days compared to the previous 6 months.
- With focused efforts and a plan in place to reduce appointment Turnaround time (TAT) in Endocrinology by increasing utilization of APP's, we were successful at decreasing new patient referral appointments from 90.8 days in December 2023 to 58.6 days in May 2024.
- In Nephrology we decreased patient lag 28.7 days to average 15 days (1/24-6/24).
- We took steps towards offering enhanced virtual health options for our patients and their families including expanded virtual primary care and expanded remote patient monitoring.
- SBCM and MHL implemented additional web-based appointments for 3 large practices via Kyruus.
- We have continued to move practices to Lake Grove and began to implement kiosks to ease registration and payment collection.

### **We Achieved Improvements in Quality**

- We reduced patient Length of Stay (LOS) - the average quarterly LOS (days) went from 6.45 in FY 22/23 to 6.03 in FY23/24, while the average quarterly LOS O/E went from 1.12 in FY22/23 to 1.02 in FY23/24.
- We reduced our Harm Score, a key component of Leapfrog scores. from 29.3 in FY22/23 to 23.2 in FY 23/24 (excludes June).
- The Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) Emergency Department has been selected as a recipient of the Emergency Nurses Association's (ENA) 2024 Lantern Award for demonstrating excellence in leadership, practice, education, advocacy, and research performance.
- We also made progress toward Magnet recognition by completing 10 nursing projects.

### **We Strengthened Our Research Enterprise**

- Implemented a \$1.2M academic funds flow to basic science departments.
- Our new Vice Dean for Research will help us strengthen clinical translation and research.
- PPH faculty are currently PIs on 12 NIH grants ranging in total awards from ~100K to \$8M.
- Five newly recruited faculty in pathology and the cancer center have received \$8M in new research funding.





- Reorganized Cancer Center org chart and governance to better integrate cancer service line and cancer research to better support cancer clinical trials.
- Three cancer center clinical trial site locations adjacent to clinical practices are in design phase. (Lake Grove, Commack, SBUH)
- Established a tick-borne disease clinic at SBUH and SHH that will expand tick-borne disease research.
- Michelle Ballan, professor, and associate dean for research in the School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook University, has received the Building Knowledge Through Research Award from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), a program of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

### **We Reinforced Our Education and Training Programs**

- Hired a Director of the Center for Interprofessional Innovation who will ensure we become a renowned educational hub to promote best practices in interprofessional health care education, practice, and research.
- Over 300 students from SHP and SSW attended Interprofessional Education Day with a theme of communicating in a responsive, responsible, respectful and compassionate manner between the health care team and the patient.
- Together RSoM and SoMAS, and on-boarded 6 new tenure-track faculty from top research institutions adding expertise in climate change and human health research, health disparities and health policy, mental health, aging, biostatistical methods and data science.
- 124 graduating students matched to residency programs. RSOM senior matches are nearly 5% better than other US medical school seniors who matched.
- 100% of 2024 dental graduates matched into residency positions.
- Our School of Nursing achieved a 97% pass rate for National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

### **A Few FY 23/24 Initiatives Could not Proceed as Planned**

Noted causes of initiatives missing their targets:

- Leadership turnover
- Recruitment delays / leadership vacancies
- Lacking necessary infrastructure
- Lack of funding
- Lack of staff