

**University Senate Report
November, 2020
Health Sciences campus
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Stony Brook University Hospital System

SBUH continues to prepare for a second round of COVID-19. The hospital is prepared with sufficient personal protective equipment, we have a robust plan for providing sufficient beds of all levels of acuity, our viral testing capacity has been greatly improved compared to early in the pandemic (see RSOM below), we have sufficient equipment (e.g. ventilators) and medications (e.g. glucocorticoids, remdesivir, convalescent plasma), and our staff are prepared well, based on our prior experiences. A second round of COVID-19, however, might be even more complex as it will likely overlap with influenza season, making diagnosis a bit more complex, but also bringing far more persons to our emergency department as has been the case during flu seasons of the past, when most people would stay home and do fine. When COVID overlaps with influenza, individuals with upper respiratory symptoms are now much more likely to be seen in our ED. At present, our total SBUH census is normal for this time of year (~590-620) with only 10-12 patients per day carrying a diagnosis of COVID-19. Finally, we have a plan to handle and distribute SARS-CoV2 vaccine when available.

Renaissance School of Medicine

In response to the expected increased patient volume at SBUH and in our outpatient facilities, and due to the needs of our campus for surveillance screening of faculty, staff and students, the pathology department has worked with a local biotech company to create a high volume, pooled sample surveillance testing protocol, that should be available for the upcoming semester.

The faculty of the RSOM continue to secure a large number of NIH and NSF grants, including major *new* awards in the first 9 months of 2020 to Drs. Agnieszka Bialkowska on the biology of intestinal epithelium and GI cancer, Alfredo Fontanini on the neurobiology of sensory perception, Katherine Jonas on early intervention in psychiatric disorders, Martin Kaczocha on the mechanisms of inflammatory pain, Weiqin Lu on metabolic changes in malignant cells, Sandeep Mallipattu on kidney regeneration, Jaymie Meilker on toxins in our environment, Chuck Mikkil for work on the mechanisms of consciousness in brain injured patients, Scott Moeller on PET imaging of opioid addicted persons, Ramin Parsey on PET imaging in persons with depression, Huda Salman on an immunological approach to leukemia, Ken-Ichi Takemaru on cell surface cilia signaling in health and disease, Nashaat Turkman on the use of PET imaging in cancer, Adrianus Van Der Velden and Maria Wilhelmus on the immunologic response to pathogens, and Wei Yin on shear stress and atherogenesis.

A series of meetings designed to create an action plan to enhance diversity and inclusion in the RSOM have been held over the past several months. The plan is now in place, and has begun to be implemented. Some of the innovations thus far enacted, many of which are based on the recommendations of our students, include new curricular elements that focus on healthcare disparities and the inclusion of far more clinical case discussions of patients of color, the

recruitment of many more “standardized patients” who are persons of color, additional mentoring teams for all students, particularly for URM students, expansion of our “pipeline program” for undergraduate students who are underrepresented in medicine, termed PACE (Pre-medical access to the clinical experience), additional scholarship funds for URM students, a change in the criteria for admission to the medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha, and very soon, the recruitment of a new assistant dean whose responsibility will be enhancing URM student success.

School of Nursing

The School will host a presentation on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2020 at 11:00 AM via Zoom: “PTSD in Healthcare Personnel: Lessons from Vietnam”. The talk will be given by Joan Furey, and is based on a program she established to treat women in the VA system after returning from service in Vietnam, a program that became a national model of care. Ms. Furey is herself a US Army Veteran nurse, having served in the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, Vietnam. President McInnis will join to bring greetings for the event. For those who would like to listen in, here is the Zoom link: <https://event.me/7kOEG9>

The School of Nursing has launched new master’s programs that are being reviewed by NYSED and we are awaiting approval.

Faculty member Dr. Clare Whitney collaborated with the Nathan Davis at the Alda Center for Communicating Science to produce the latest “SBU Science on Stage” production.

The School of Nursing has been working with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to participate in work groups and provide comments on the new “Essentials” documents that become the basis for the new accreditation standards for baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral (DNP) programs.

And School of Nursing students have participated in a national dialogue on the “Overdue Reckoning on Racism in Nursing.”

School of Social Welfare

A national search for the Dean of the School has been launched, headed by Drs. Iris Granek (Chair, Family, Population and Preventive Medicine, RSOM) and Stacy Gropack (Dean SHTM), and assisted by the search firm of Isaacson Miller. All suggestions for potential candidates should be shared with the co-chairs.

School of Health Technology and Management

Continuing on the success of our recent graduates, the School reports a 100% pass rate and 100% employment rate for Radiologic Technology and Radiation Therapy program graduates.

Coupled with COVID-19 is the need for strength in skill level and knowledge, creating a push toward raising the standard of education for future Respiratory Care Therapists. As experts in the

field, SHTM's Lisa Endee, MPH, RT, RRT-SDS, RST and Stephen Smith, MPA, RT, RRT, FAARC discuss this in an interview with Medical Technology Schools about the advancements in Respiratory Therapy roles and training. To read the article, go to: <https://lnkd.in/dTcNGEE>

The School's Diversity Committee has received a Presidential Mini-Grant for its LGBTQAI+ workshops for healthcare faculty, staff, and students. A special thank you to Robbye Kinkade, MPH, CHES, DrPH (c), Sean Getty, OTD, MS, OTR/L, Christina Burke, PT, DPT, MS, and Kathleen McGoldrick, MLS, for putting together the proposal on behalf of the committee. These workshops will provide invaluable information to faculty, staff and students, both here at Stony Brook University, and as our healthcare providers go out in the community.

And along the same line, Sharon Martino, PT, PhD received a Presidential Mini-Grant for her proposal, "Weight Bias and Stigma Among Healthcare Students and Providers." This initiative will incorporate Stony Brook University's Fit Kids for Life! Wellness program, co-directed by Dr. Martino. Fit Kids for Life is a multi-disciplinary nutrition, exercise and behavior modification program that is offered to children and families of those children who are at risk for cardiovascular disease.

And Drs. Brooke Ellison, Michael Gouzman, Xiaojun Bi and Kimberly Noel received a Stony Brook University Office of the VP for Research Seed Funding Grant entitled "Generation Orally-Activated Multi-Modal Assistive Technologies for People with Severe Disabilities". And it was a good semester for Dr. Ellison, our University Senate representative to the SUNY Senate, who also received the New York Stem Cell Foundation, Stem Cell Hero Award, for 2020. (see www.NYSCf.Org/events)