NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS

South Brooklyn Health News
Expect Excellence for All

JULY 2023

ZurMed Interview with South Brooklyn Health CEO, Svetlana Lipyanskaya



In a one-on-one interview, Ms. Lipyanskaya, the CEO of South Brooklyn Health, sits down with Dr. Jack Braha, host of Zurmed. Throughout the conversation, she emphasizes the importance of maintaining South Brooklyn Health's accessibility to the 875,000 New Yorkers who rely on this vital community hospital for their healthcare needs. Additionally, she highlights her commitment to mentoring other women who aspire to leadership positions within the healthcare industry.

Watch Now

South Brooklyn Health's First Annual Pediatric Emergency Medicine Symposium



Join us on August 2nd at 8 a.m. in the Kane Auditorium for a crucial symposium. Register and find more information about the event by clicking **here**.

SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH ACHIEVES EXCELLENCE FOR ALL THROUGH QUALITY ACADEMY GRADUATES

A Message from our Chief Quality Officer, Theresa Madeline, M.D.



South Brooklyn Health's primary mission is to achieve excellence for all. The Institute of Medicine outlines the dimensions of excellence, which include safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and patient-centered care.

One of NYC Health + Hospitals' strategic pillars - social justice - aligns with the dimensions of excellence defined by the Institute of Medicine. At South Brooklyn Health, there is a wealth of collaborative work dedicated to attaining excellence for all, which I would like to highlight.

Quality Academy, a crucial capacity-building program, offers formal training and mentorship to South Brooklyn Health team members, empowering them to become quality and safety champions. The ultimate goal is to enable every individual to act as an agent of positive change in their daily work. Participants not only learn tools and methods for process improvement, but also benefit from coaching and training to enhance interprofessional relationships, foster team building, and manage change effectively.

This year, South Brooklyn Health proudly recognizes 16 graduates of Quality Academy, who have made incredible strides in critically important initiatives to enhance care and achieve excellence. These initiatives encompass hospital-acquired infection reduction, pressure injury prevention, workplace violence prevention, care coordination, enhanced mobility for hospitalized patients, and more. This cohort truly stood out, consistently demonstrating remarkable teamwork and engagement during each session, which is evident in the success of their initiatives. I couldn't be prouder of this year's graduates and their improvement teams, namely: Seun Ajibade, Nairi Avakyan, Anna Barkov, Albert Brown, Xiomara Chavarria, Alexander Daniels, Annjeet Dhillon, Aliza Efraimov, Rebecca Grodzki, Eli Kay, Anthony Ling, Michael Moskowitz, Charles Ryan, Remi Saji, Lina Tkach, and Ravil Valishev.

An example of achieving excellence for all is the multidisciplinary mobility initiative on Tower 6W, led by Marie Saint-Victor, Anthony Ling, Wendy Zhao, and Anna Barkov. This team, comprised of physical therapists and nurses, developed interdisciplinary team algorithms, protocols, and daily checklists, and utilized mobility assistive devices to ensure geriatric patients safely and consistently engage in activities such as getting out of bed and walking. Enhanced mobility in the hospital environment yields numerous positive outcomes, including greater independence and a higher likelihood of returning home upon discharge, shorter hospital stays, reduced incidence of delirium, improved gastrointestinal motility, prevention of pressure injuries, and decreased falls. Remarkably, this team surpassed their goal of mobilizing 70% of eligible patients, consistently achieving 100% mobilization with zero falls and zero pressure injuries! I extend my heartfelt congratulations to this team for their exceptional achievement and the positive impact they have made on our patients.

We invite you to join us in celebrating this year's graduates on Friday, August 11, 2023, in the Kane Auditorium for an in-house graduation and award ceremony. Each graduate will have the opportunity to showcase their remarkable work and receive an award based on their accomplishments.

Applications for the 2024 cohort of Quality Academy are now open, and I encourage all interested individuals to apply! You can access the program information and application through this link. For further details or assistance with the application process, please reach out to Dominick Calandro, Director of Performance Improvement here.

SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH CELEBRATES 500 SUCCESSFUL ROBOTIC SURGERIES

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH REACHES 500TH ROBOTIC SURGERY MILESTONE



NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health celebrated a significant milestone, completing our 500th robotic surgery using the da Vinci Xi Surgical System. The successful surgery, performed by Dr. Abdo Kabarriti and Dr. Sushant Remersu, involved the removal of a cystic mass in the abdominal cavity without needing a large incision. Since launching the robotic surgical program last summer, the hospital's surgical team has provided minimally invasive procedures with improved precision and quicker patient recovery across various specialties.

The acquisition of the state-of-the-art da Vinci Xi Surgical System was made possible through $2.6 million in FY21 capital funding from former NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson and Council Member Mark Treyger. This new surgical option aligns with the hospital's broader vision of enhancing surgical, inpatient, and ambulatory care departments to enhance patient experiences and clinical outcomes. NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health CEO, Svetlana Lipyanskaya, expressed pride in reaching the 500th robotic surgeries milestone and acknowledged the hospital's dedicated team of doctors, nurses, and staff for making it possible. The hospital looks forward to offering more patients the benefits of robotic surgeries as they continue to pioneer innovative surgical approaches.

EMPOWERING BIRTHS

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH MIDWIFERY PROGRAM REACHES MILESTONE WITH 20,000th DELIVERY



NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health recently celebrated a significant achievement, reaching its 20,000th midwifery birth. The memorable moment occurred when Baby Girl Ali was born on July 6 at 4:37 a.m., delivered by certified nurse-midwife Patrina Royes. This milestone highlights the hospital's dedication to improving maternal and infant health outcomes in South Brooklyn and nearby communities. Midwives have been an essential part of the hospital's care delivery team since 1982, playing a crucial role in providing high-quality maternity care and addressing racial disparities in maternal health for Black and Hispanic women.

At South Brooklyn Health, midwives work alongside OB/GYN physicians and nurses, offering patient-centered care that ensures equitable healthcare access and informed decision-making. With a diverse roster of midwives, representing various cultural backgrounds, the hospital delivers culturally and linguistically appropriate care. These licensed independent practitioners are graduates of certified midwifery programs and provide essential services during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care. The hospital's commitment to providing top-quality care is reflected in the modern women's health practice and Labor and Delivery suite, as well as its support for breastfeeding and intimate birthing experiences. In 2022, midwives were responsible for nearly one-third of all births at South Brooklyn Health.

To learn more about their commitment and the impact of midwifery care, you can read the full press release here.

EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY CARE

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NURSING AWARD



NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health proudly announces that our Emergency Department (ED) nurses have achieved a historic milestone by being the first hospital in the system to receive the prestigious Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) Lantern Award. This significant honor recognizes their exceptional performance in leadership, practice, education, advocacy, and research. With over 50,000 members worldwide, ENA aims to advance excellence in emergency nursing and upholds core values such as collaboration, compassion, diversity, excellence, and philanthropy. The award application incorporates both quantitative and qualitative assessments, highlighting the team's collaboration, innovation, and dedication to providing compassionate and life-saving care to over 76,000 emergency visits annually.

The ENA Lantern Award places South Brooklyn Health among just 53 emergency departments globally, and only three in New York City, exemplifying their exceptional evidence-based practices. We celebrate our nurses' commitment to quality, safety, and outstanding patient care, making them a vital part of the clinical operation in their state-of-the-art emergency department. To read more about this prestigious recognition and our impressive achievements, please visit the full story here.

EMBARKING ON A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH'S PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY DEPARTMENT TAKES A BOLD LEAP TO THE NEW RUTH BADER GINSBURG HOSPITAL



Last month, NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health's Pathology and Laboratory department recently completed its relocation to the state-of-the-art Ruth Bader Ginsburg Hospital. This move marks a significant milestone in their commitment to providing cutting-edge healthcare services. The transition brings advanced technology, including a fully automated modern chemistry line, improved anatomic pathology facilities, and web-based access for timely consultations, revolutionizing the way pathology and laboratory services are conducted. With these enhancements, South Brooklyn Health aims to deliver faster and more accurate results, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes.

The relocation has also united the staff within the new hospital, fostering a sense of camaraderie that inspires innovation and teamwork. This consolidation allows for seamless communication, sharing of knowledge, and cross-functional collaboration, raising the standard of care for patients. South Brooklyn Health's Pathology and Laboratory department is now at the forefront of a transformative journey in healthcare, promising to touch and save lives while leaving a lasting impact on the landscape of healthcare in Brooklyn and beyond. To learn more about this remarkable move and its implications, read the full press release here.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH UNITES IN COMPASSIONATE CARE

In a remarkable display of unity and compassion, South Brooklyn Health has recently witnessed a triumvirate of events that embody the spirit of inclusivity, celebration, and community support. From the Pride Luncheon honoring LGBTQIA+ staff and patients, to the vibrant Caribbean American Heritage Festival, and culminating in the impactful Community Health Fair hosted at the Ida G. Israel Community Health Center, the hospital has emerged as a beacon of diversity and empowerment.







The Pride Luncheon proved to be a heartfelt testament to the hospital's commitment to inclusivity and support for the LGBTQIA+ community. As staff members gathered, they immersed themselves in stories of the brave activists who, through their unwavering determination, helped pave the way for a more accepting society. This celebration not only honored the hospital's LGBTQIA+ staff and patients, but also ignited a renewed sense of purpose, fostering a safe and affirming environment for all.







Shortly after, the hospital witnessed one of its most momentous occasions—the Caribbean American Heritage Festival. With standing room only and a line stretching out the door down a long corridor, the festival became a testament to the rich tapestry of cultures present within the institution. From vibrant music and dance performances to tantalizing cuisine, this joyous event embraced diversity and inclusion, fostering a sense of belonging for individuals from all walks of life. The festival reminded us that our differences are to be cherished, creating a harmonious space that brought communities together in celebration.













Building upon this momentum, we recently hosted a Community Health Fair at the Ida G. Israel Community Health Center that united staff and community members alike in their commitment to supporting residents in Coney Island and surrounding neighborhoods. The health fair provided an invaluable opportunity for hospital personnel to engage with the community directly, offering vital resources, information, and services. This display of solidarity highlighted the hospital's deep-rooted dedication to the well-being of its neighbors, ensuring that healthcare is not merely confined within the walls of the institution but extends to the lives of those it serves.































Together, these three transformative events serve as a testament to our unwavering commitment to celebrating diversity, empowering communities, and providing compassionate health care. The Pride Luncheon, Caribbean American Heritage Festival, and Community Health Fair have united staff, patients, and neighbors under a common purpose—to build a society where everyone feels seen, supported, and valued.

As we reflect on these extraordinary occasions, let us carry their spirit forward, igniting change in our own lives and communities. By embracing the courage of LGBTQIA+ activists, celebrating diverse cultures, and extending a helping hand through community outreach, we can create a future where equality and compassion reign. South Brooklyn Health will continue to stand as a shining example of what can be achieved when we come together, united in our shared humanity.

CELEBRATING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH'S HOUSE STAFF GRADUATION CEREMONIES



Amidst a wave of joy and anticipation, the Kane Auditorium at South Brooklyn Health was transformed into a hub of jubilation as we hosted our much-awaited medical house staff graduation ceremonies on June 22 and June 30. The air was charged with emotions of pride, accomplishment, and hope as the events honored the remarkable achievements of the talented individuals who have completed their rigorous residency training programs.

The atmosphere was electrified as family members, friends, mentors, and distinguished guests gathered to witness this significant milestone in the lives of the graduates. These ceremonies symbolized not only the culmination of years of dedicated study and hands-on experience, but also the beginning of a promising future in the field of medicine.







The graduation ceremonies acknowledged the successful completion of several programs, each representing distinct specialties, including: Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Podiatry, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Pulmonary, Dentistry, and Emergency Medicine. Through their tireless efforts, these graduates have not only honed their medical skills, but also developed a deep understanding of compassionate patient care. They have embraced the challenges and complexities of their chosen specialties, gaining invaluable experience under the guidance of skilled mentors and the support of their fellow residents.

















The impact of this exceptional training extends far beyond the walls of the auditorium, as these graduates are poised to make a difference in countless lives. Their expertise will be instrumental in addressing the ever-evolving healthcare needs of our community. From diagnosing and treating complex medical conditions to providing vital support during emergencies, these professionals are armed with the knowledge and skills to improve the health and well-being of their patients.

South Brooklyn Health takes great pride in nurturing and cultivating the next generation of healthcare leaders. The institution's commitment to excellence is evident in the exceptional training programs it offers and the unwavering dedication of its faculty and staff. Through these graduations, the torch is now passed to a new cohort of healthcare providers, who are poised to continue the legacy of compassion, expertise, excellence and innovation.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

INTRODUCING TARA DITORE, SUPERVISOR OF OUTPATIENT CODING



We are excited to shine the spotlight on one of our exceptional team members at South Brooklyn Health. Please join us in getting to know Tara DiTore, a valuable member of our Revenue Integrity Team and the Health Information Management Department.

Tara holds the title of Health Information Management II and plays a pivotal role as the Supervisor of Outpatient Coding. In this capacity, she oversees the coding of Emergency and Ambulatory Surgery visits, ensuring accuracy and compliance. Additionally, as a member of the Revenue Integrity Team, Tara collaborates with various departments across South Brooklyn Health to ensure that all work queues are up to date. Her dedication and expertise are crucial in maintaining the efficiency of our revenue cycle processes.

When asked about her favorite part of the job, Tara enthusiastically shares that every day is a learning experience. Working closely with her colleagues and other employees within NYC Health + Hospitals allows her to gain insight into all aspects of the health system. Tara considers herself fortunate to be part of the Revenue Cycle department at South Brooklyn Health.

Outside of work, Tara finds joy in spending time with her furry companion, Chloe, and enjoying long walks together. She also has a passion for traveling, gardening, and cherishing moments with her family and friends. These activities provide a perfect balance to her professional life, allowing her to recharge and appreciate the beauty of life beyond the office.

In closing, Tara wants to express her gratitude for the rewarding experience she has had as a member of the Revenue Cycle for the past 13 years. She cannot imagine herself in any other career and considers herself fortunate to work in a job she truly loves. Her dedication and commitment to excellence serve as an inspiration to us all.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

EMPLOYEE PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 2023



The New York City Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health Human Resources Department cordially invites you to join us in congratulating Dr. Stefan Seemungal on his recent promotion to Resident PGY - LVI (Chief Resident).

Dr. Stefan Seemungal, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, developed a passion for biology and the sciences during his early education. Motivated by the loss of his best friend's father to a brain tumor, he decided to become a doctor to make a difference and save lives. Stefan pursued his medical education at Saint George's University in Grenada before coming to South Brooklyn Health for his core rotation in 2015. Impressed by his experience and drawn to the diverse culture and people of Brooklyn, he chose to return for his fourth-year residency at South Brooklyn Health.

For Stefan, South Brooklyn Health holds sentimental value as it is where he got engaged, married, and witnessed the birth of his son. He has also formed strong relationships with colleagues and mentors, including Dr. Steven Siegel, the current residency program director, who has provided valuable guidance throughout his time at the hospital. Fate seemed to be on his side when Stefan decided to specialize in Internal Medicine and was matched to South Brooklyn Health's Medicine program. He was elated that he did not need to go to another hospital to complete his residency.

Dr. Seemungal wants to reassure new doctors in training that South Brooklyn Health provides everything they need for their professional development. He advises them not to shy away from hard work, to give their best effort, and always remember to give back. Something Stefan often tells himself and others is, "comfort is the enemy of progress, so don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone."

GOOD NEWS AROUND SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH

EXCELLENT CARE: ONE PATIENT'S TESTIMONIAL

Thank You.

6/29/23

South BROOKLYN HEALTH - ADMINISTRATION

To: Michelle Bekman, Chief Growth Officer
David Kennedy, Service Line Manager
Annamarie Assue, Service Line Manager
Pardha Valluru, Chairman Rehab Dept.
Linda Bores, Director Physical Therapy

Good work needs to be acknowledged! It is in that spirit that I am writing to let you know of my experience at your institution as well as to specifically compliment particular professional staff I have interacted with as an outpatient at the Speech-Language Pathology Department, Ms. Olga Kiku and Ms. Snezhana Khodorskaya.

I have met with Ms. Kiku and Ms. Khodorskaya several times for 2 procedures and I am beyond impressed. I have been graciously welcomed, treated professionally and made as comfortable by them as humanly possible. I have received a phone call from Ms. Kiku after each procedure to let me know the results, appointments were arranged as well as follow-up instructions. I continue to be an outpatient for needed services and I couldn't be more pleased with the service.

Furthermore, and in general, I have been an inpatient (5/19/23 – 5/26/23) on G-8. The Emergency Department has surpassed all expectations and then I was admitted to your new facility which, to say the least, was amazing. Not only was room beautiful, but most importantly, all the nursing staff as well as the ancillary staff were absolutely delightful. I have not stopped praising your institution to all who I know and if your mission is to make South Brooklyn Health a "premier" institution in Brooklyn, you are definitely on the right track.

I thank you all for the wonderful service I have received so far and I hope that you will continue with your mission with much success.

PROUDLY CELEBRATING OUR LGBTQIA+ PROVIDERS AT SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH

Our esteemed Dr. Warren Seigel, a distinguished LGBTQIA+ physician, was acknowledged by Castle Connolly last month. Discover more about his inspiring journey and the other exceptional physicians who significantly impact society by clicking **here.**



Our esteemed Dr. Wilfredo Yap, featured on News 12 last month, was highlighted by the news station as one of the local heroes in the LGBTQIA+ community during Pride Month. He is a leader in his field, inspiring others and emphasizing the importance of representation. You can watch the full video **here**.



SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Bridgette Ingraham-Roberts: Director | **Isaiah McClain:** Assistant Director | **Lakeisha Weston:** Coordinating Manager