

**MARCH 2024**

### South Brooklyn Health in the News

#### Hospital Convened Expert Panel on Racial Disparities in the Black Community



South Brooklyn convened health experts to discuss racial disparities in the black community. Click [here](#) for the Jewish Voice article.

#### High Achievement in Patient Care, with PCMH Designation



Thirty-six of our clinicians won the award of high quality patient care, by achieving the New York State Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) designation. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## SOUTH BROOKLYN: OUR EVOLUTION

### A Message from Our Chief Growth Officer, Michelle Bekman

The increasing demand for healthcare calls for an evolution at South Brooklyn Health. Our vision to become the health care destination of choice serving our community and beyond – today and for future generations, are not just words on paper, but our true north star.

There are nearly one million New Yorkers in South Brooklyn Health’s catchment area, which means we have an opportunity to live up to our mission of providing equitable and high-quality patient-centered care, by developing robust clinical programs to meet their needs.

Our Chief Executive Officer has made it clear that we need to understand what our hospital means to our community, and that we should take into consideration all the variables that impact their health such as, working and living conditions, economic well-being, safety, education, school environments and social conditions.

This means we will continue to bring our services to the community, by offering health education and screenings for chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, as well providing new job opportunities with potential to grow at South Brooklyn Health. We will also provide in-house initiatives, such a survivorship programs for our cancer patients or those at high-risk for getting cancer. And, we will position ourselves as a strong corporate partner, by providing vocational opportunities



for our young people – as we know they are indeed the future.

The health system’s community health needs assessment reveals that many community residents have chronic medical and mental health conditions, with cancer being the leading cause of premature death in the borough. As such, over the next two years, we’ll have newly redesigned and expanded state of the art ambulatory practices, including primary care, women’s health, infusion therapy, and other specialty services, with many more to come.

These spaces will organize our ambulatory services in a centralized and cohesive manner, creating a one-stop-shop experience for all – most of the procedural, diagnostic and lab related services will be offered locally.

Together, we will triple the scope of our ambulatory care practice, consistently aligning efficiency, and development with the needs of our community. This is our measure of evolution and what we truly bring to the community.

**ONE YEAR CAUTI-FREE**

**A CELEBRATION AT NYC HEALTH + HOSPITAL | SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH**



On March 21, South Brooklyn Health celebrated a significant milestone of being one year free of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs). This achievement is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment of our entire team, including physicians, nurses, infection prevention, environmental services, and supply chain.



Health system leaders, including Dr. Mitchell Katz, Chief Executive Officer, and Dr. Machel Allen, Chief Medical Officer, joined South Brooklyn Health in its celebration of this remarkable feat. South Brooklyn Health Chief Executive Officer, Svetlana Lipyanskaya, commended the staff's hard work and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of patient care and safety.



Dr. Manjinder Kaur, Chief Nursing Officer and Dr. Terence Brady, Chief Medical Officer spoke to the collaboration amongst the team and strategic measures undertaken to achieve a year without CAUTIs, showcasing the organization's dedication to healthcare excellence. The highlight of the event was the work of Remi Chacko, Head Nurse for Medicine and Surgery; Kim Joseph, Head Nurse for Medicine and Surgery; and Dr. Igor Broskiy, Chief Resident of the Department of Medicine, showcasing the leadership and dedication of all our frontline staff, which was pivotal in reaching this important milestone.

**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AND GROWTH**

**SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH CELEBRATES CERTIFIED NURSES DAY™ WITH UNIQUE FAMILY ACHIEVEMENT**



On Tuesday, March 19, South Brooklyn Health proudly celebrated Certified Nurses Day™, honoring the dedication and excellence of our frontline nurses, who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to patient care by pursuing national board certification.



This year's celebration was marked by an exceptional story of family achievement, spotlighting Sandra Teh and her two children, Wilson and Melanie, who all achieved their certification within the same year, showcasing a remarkable family legacy in the nursing profession.

The event highlighted the rigorous journey nurses undertake to obtain national board certification to develop expertise and advanced knowledge. South Brooklyn Health's Chief Nursing Officer expressed immense pride in the staff, emphasizing how their continuous efforts to achieve professional excellence directly contribute to improved patient outcomes and overall healthcare quality.

The celebration included testimonials from patients and colleagues, shedding light on certified nurses' pivotal role in enhancing healthcare experiences and outcomes.

This ceremony is just one example of South Brooklyn Health's commitment to fostering an environment where educational advancement and professional development are highly valued.



## SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH HOSTS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM AT KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The South Brooklyn Health Community Advisory Board held its Annual Legislative Forum on March 8 at Kingsborough Community College, marking the first in-person gathering since the pandemic hit in 2020. The event, themed “A New Name, A New Future,” drew a significant turnout, signaling a renewed commitment to healthcare in South Brooklyn. Rosanne DeGennaro, Chairperson of the Community Advisory Board, opened the event with remarks that set the tone for the morning.

Svetlana Lipyanskaya, Chief Executive Officer of South Brooklyn Health, shared an overview of the hospital’s accomplishments over the past year, its strategic plan, which places patients, employees, and community as a focal point for everything we do, and important clinical and infrastructure initiatives in the pipeline. She also shared the hospital’s FY25 capital requests to improve women’s health care at South Brooklyn Health and called on elected officials for their continued support to further the organization’s mission.



Dr. Terence Brady, and Dr. Manjinder Kaur, also showcased the accomplishments of the medical and nursing staff and their vision for the future. The event was well-attended by elected officials, including NYC Council Member Susan Zhuang, NYS Assembly Member Alec Brook-Krasny, and NYS Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, alongside representatives from the offices of other elected officials.

South Brooklyn Health would like to thank Kingsborough Community College, particularly Stephannia Cleaton, Mary Dawson, and Linda McKernan, along with her events planning team, for their instrumental roles in facilitating this successful gathering.



## SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH HONORS STAFF WITH ALL-DAY CELEBRATIONS FOR EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

On March 1, South Brooklyn Health commemorated Employee Appreciation Day, with a series of heartwarming celebrations that spanned the entire day, ensuring that staff from all three tours were honored for their dedication and hard work. The event, organized by the Human Resources Department, featured continental breakfast, as well as lunch, and dinner, providing a well-deserved break and a token of gratitude to the employees, who are the backbone of the hospital. This day was specially designed to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts and unwavering commitment of the staff members who tirelessly contribute to the well-being of the community.

The leadership team at South Brooklyn Health played a pivotal role in the day's success, actively participating in the festivities by volunteering to serve food and personally greeting each staff member.

This gesture of solidarity and appreciation by the leaders underscored the organization's commitment to creating a supportive workplace culture. Employees were visibly moved by the acknowledgment, and the event fostered a sense of community and pride among the workforce. The involvement of the leadership team not only highlighted the importance of recognizing the hard work of their staff, but also strengthened the bond between the management and employees, reinforcing the hospital's ethos of mutual respect and recognition.



**THE CARIBBEAN LIFE IMPACT AWARD CEREMONY:**

**DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, BRIDGETTE INGRAHAM-ROBERTS RECIEVES CARIBBEAN LIFE IMPACT AWARD**



On March 20, Bridgette Ingraham-Roberts, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Public Affairs, was honored with the Caribbean Life Impact Award in a ceremony attended by her family, friends and colleagues.

This accolade is part of the annual Schneps Media Awards, celebrating individuals of Caribbean descent who have made significant contributions in various fields such as healthcare, the arts, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and beyond. Bridgette, an immigrant from the Bahamas and Jamaica, was recognized for her remarkable career in health care and dedication to advancing public policy and programs for a

better New York. In her heartfelt acceptance remarks, Bridgette reflected on her journey from the Caribbean to becoming a leader in health care, underscoring the theme of hard work, resilience, and the importance of community support in achieving one's dreams.

You can listen to Bridgette's acceptance speech [here](#).



**PANEL DISCUSSION:**

**TRANSFORMING THE STATE OF HEALTH IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

Our recent panel discussion on "Transforming the State of Health in the Black Community" brought together distinguished healthcare professionals to address critical issues affecting health outcomes within the Black community. The event, marked by insightful dialogues and strategic deliberations, was kickstarted with opening remarks by Chief Executive Officer, Svetlana Lipyanskaya, who emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to enhance health equity. Moderated by Bridgette Ingraham-Roberts, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Public Affairs, the discussion navigated through various dimensions of healthcare challenges and opportunities for improvement, setting a tone of urgency and constructive engagement.

Panelists, including Dr. Michelle Soto, Chief of Ambulatory Care; Dr. Darius Felton, Chief Medical Informatics Officer; Althea Senior-Morris, MSN, RN, Associate Executive Director, Ambulatory Care; Seun Ajibade, RN, Director of Nursing, Behavioral Health; Jasmin Ryan, Associate Director, Ambulatory Care; and Ashley Henry, NP, contributed their diverse expertise and perspectives. They collectively underscored the need for targeted interventions and innovative approaches to healthcare delivery in the Black community. The panel highlighted the significance of data-driven decision-making, community-focused health initiatives, and the empowerment of healthcare professionals to foster a transformative journey towards better health outcomes in the Black community.



**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**

**SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE: HONORING LAKEISHA WESTON'S DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENT AT SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH**

In this month's employee spotlight, we are thrilled to celebrate the exceptional Lakeisha Weston, Coordinating Manager in the Public Affairs Department at South Brooklyn Health. Lakeisha, who adeptly oversees our Community Outreach and serves as the Community Advisory Board (CAB) Liaison, is an integral part of the team, dedicating her efforts to ensure the well-being and support of our community. Her commitment and tireless work have recently been recognized at the local level, earning her a City Council Citation from NYC Council Member Justin Brannan

for her outstanding service and dedication for over two decades.

The citation was personally delivered by Officer Rafik Patel from Community Affairs PSA1. The event was made even more special by the presence of her colleagues, Jerry Childs, George Washington Jr., Derrick Graves, Asher Beard, and James Means, who joined in celebrating her achievement.

We are incredibly proud of Lakeisha's accomplishments and grateful for her continued contributions to our community.



**EMPLOYEE PROMOTION**

**RISING STAR IN HEALTHCARE: TRENISA MILLER'S INSPIRING JOURNEY TO STAFF NURSE AT SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH**



Congratulations to Trenisa Miller on her promotion to Staff Nurse in the Medicine/ Surgery Department.

Trenisa Miller began her journey at South Brooklyn Health in October 2022 as a Nurse's Aide in the inpatient Wound Care department, before moving to the Med/ Surg ICU. Inspired by the compassionate patient care she observed in Jamaica, where she grew up, Miller was determined to become a Registered Nurse, and achieved this goal in December 2023.

Miller acknowledges the support from her colleagues in the MICU, CCU, and SICU units at

South Brooklyn Health, which was crucial for passing her NCLEX exam and obtaining her RN license. She advises fellow Nurse's Aides to follow their professional dreams.

She expresses gratitude to Marjorie Daly-Walsh, Critical Care Director of Nursing, and ICU Staff Nurses Vicky Nguyen and Sonia Shinu for their mentorship. Now pursuing her BSN at Capella University, Miller aspires to become a certified ICU Nurse, underscoring her commitment to her nursing career.



## CELEBRATING UNITY AND APPRECIATION: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT OUR ORGANIZATION

On March 8, our hospital joined in the global celebration of International Women's Day, marking the occasion with a special gesture that warmed hearts and fostered a sense of camaraderie.

As employees arrived at work, the Human Resources Department surprised all the women with beautiful flowers, a thoughtful act that sparked joy and laughter throughout the hospital campus. The vibrant blooms became symbols of appreciation and respect, highlighting the valuable contributions of women in



our workplace and beyond. The festivities continued with the provision of refreshments for all staff, ensuring the day started on a delightful note. This gesture of goodwill, not only honored the spirit of International Women's Day, but also strengthened the sense of community within our organization.



GOOD NEWS AROUND SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH

EXCELLENT CARE – ONE PATIENT’S TESTIMONIAL FOR SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH

Newsletter Archive

Thanks for your continued support and engagement with our November newsletter. Your dedication to staying informed about the latest updates and insights at NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health is truly inspiring.

We are committed to keeping you informed and inspired, and we'd like to remind you that you can access any of our past newsletters by simply clicking on the following link: **[Newsletter Archive]** Whether you're looking to revisit a specific topic or catch up on any you may have missed, our archive is at your disposal.

Patient Testimonials

We're excited to announce our new Patient Testimonial page, where our patients' heartfelt letters are now beautifully archived for you to explore. Click **[here]** to access these inspiring patient stories and experience their journeys firsthand.

To: Patient Relations,  
Room # 1N21,  
Coney Island Hospital  
2601 Ocean Parkway  
Brooklyn, NY, 11235

Subject: - A Brief Note of Appreciation for Ms. LAURA PYNN  
(Financial Advisor).

As a result of my visits to Ms. Laura Pynn for advice and guidance during the last several years, I have learnt that she is an employee who assesses the needs of individual patients and guides them through the labyrinth of the hospital system most willingly.

In my recent visit to the hospital, it was not clear to the attending Nurse whether a certain facility (latest vaccine shot) was covered by my insurance. Accordingly, the Nurse took me to Ms. Pynn's office to seek her advice. Ms Pynn gave a prompt and clear-cut reply, further enhancing my above impression(s) about the counsellor.

As a matter of fact, my impressions about her are <sup>not</sup> based on my personal interactions alone. I have had the opportunities to observe her dealing other patients/visitors to her office as well.

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH

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



STAY CONNECTED. FOLLOW US.

TWITTER.COM/SOUTHBKHEALTH  
FACEBOOK.COM/NYCHEALTHSYSTEM  
NYCHEALTHANDHOSPITALS.ORG/LOCATIONS/SOUTH-BROOKLYN-HEALTH

Live Your Healthiest Life.

