

2021 AWARDS



Excellence in Medicine
Foundation

Ad Journal

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THANK YOU

To the Courageous Heroes of the Pandemic

FROM THE TEAM AT MDADVANTAGE

This year has been a great challenge, especially to those working tirelessly within the healthcare community. We are sincerely grateful for your quiet bravery, your selfless service and your commitment to the people under your care. Thank you for protecting and caring for us in these unprecedented times.

**We are honored to stand
by you and serve you.**

MD
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Letter from MDAdvantage®

May 5, 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Thank you for your participation in and support of the 2021 *EJI Excellence in Medicine Awards™* virtual event. We truly appreciate the generosity of those who contributed to the awards program, especially in a year that has been challenging for everyone.

We are so honored to celebrate our award recipients and scholarship students with you. While we aren't celebrating together in person, I hope you will find our virtual program to be an enjoyable alternative at a time when everyone's health and safety is our top priority.

Congratulations to the class of 2021 award recipients who are so deserving of this recognition. We are deeply grateful for the time each of you took out of your busy schedules to speak with us and provide us insights into your lives, your careers and your amazing accomplishments.

Our commitment to raising scholarship funds for our medical and healthcare programs in New Jersey remains strong. We have reached a major milestone this year – surpassing \$1 million raised since we initiated the scholarship fund in 2010. Kudos to all of the 2020 and 2021 scholarship recipients. Each of you have already accomplished so much, and we can't wait to see you achieve all of your future aspirations.

And finally, thank you to the team at MDAdvantage and at Second Melody who worked so hard to reinvent our awards program this year.

We hope to see everyone at next year's dinner, which will be held on May 4, 2022. Award nominations for 2022 will be accepted through August 6, 2021.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Costante, FACHE
Chairman and CEO
MDAdvantage Insurance Company



Paul J. Hirsch, MD
Chairman
EJI Excellence in Medicine Foundation

2021 EJI Excellence in Medicine Honor Roll



MADvantage is proud to partner with the Excellence in Medicine Scholarship Honor Roll members, most notably RWJBarnabas Health, who share our commitment to investing in the future of medicine and improving access to healthcare for New Jersey residents.

Distinguished Scholarship Society | \$75,000



Champion Scholarship Society | \$15,000

Atlantic Health System – Morristown Medical Center

New Jersey Orthopaedic Institute (NJOI) & University Spine Center

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School & Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Visionary Scholarship Society | \$10,000

Patricia A. Costante, FACHE

In Memory of Bessie Sullivan, MD

New Jersey Health Foundation, Inc.

Dr. & Mrs. George Heinrich

Paul J. Hirsch, MD

Dr. and Mrs. Jean Anderson Eloy,
Soly Baredes, MD, and the
Rutgers NJMS Department of
Otolaryngology – Head and Neck
Surgery

2021 EJI Excellence in Medicine Honor Roll

Innovator Scholarship Society | \$5,000

Rutgers Biomedical and Health
Sciences & Rutgers University
Foundation

Saiber, LLC

CLB Partners, LLC

Steve Aduvato, PhD

Hackensack Meridian *Health*

NJM Insurance Group

Atlantic Health System

Trinitas Health & Regional
Medical Center

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New
Jersey

MDAdvantage Board of Directors

Advocate Scholarship Society | \$2,500

University Radiology Group, PC

Senator and Mrs. Christopher
"Kip" Bateman

MDAdvisor Editorial Board

Rowan University School of
Osteopathic Medicine

Nina and Dan Gowaty

Edgewood Properties

Medical-Dental Staff of
Morristown Medical Center

Cooper Medical School of Rowan
University

Hackensack Meridian *Health*
Foundation

Princeton Orthopaedic
Associates, PA

Brach Eichler LLC

2021 EJI Excellence in Medicine Honor Roll

Supporter Scholarship Society | \$1,250

John Dohanich & Aquatic
Performance Training

MacNeill, O'Neill & Riveles

Raritan Valley Community
College

Mr. & Mrs. Pete Cammarano

Eileen M. Moynihan, MD

Catherine & Ed Williams

Jill Young, DO

Jeremy & Lisa Hirsch

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Giblin, Combs, Cunningham &
Masone, LLC

Perr & Knight

EisnerAmper LLP

Marshall Dennehey

Vasios, Kelly & Strollo, P.A.

Orlovsky Moody Schaaff &
Conlon, LLC



Additional Contributors

Colleen Bowman

Jeffrey L. Carson, MD

Margaret Chipowsky

Civic League of Greater
New Brunswick – in honor of
Eric G. Jahn, MD, & Eric B.
Chandler Health Center

Stephen Cohen

Joseph P. Costabile, MD

Elaine and Bud D’Avella – in
honor of Joseph V. DiTrolino, MD

Anita Dean

Maj Gen Maria Falca-Dodson,
USAF, Ret & Col William “Buck”
Dodson, MD, USAF, Ret

Will DiPietro

George Gillmore

Michael A. Giuliano, MD

Leslie Godek

Edward Grab

Christopher Hanifin

Gregory Hoag

Brian Kriger

Mike Kubik

Lisa Luciano

Michael P. Martin

Kimberly Mrvica

Pacific Edge Diagnostics USA – in
honor of Joseph V. DiTrolino, MD

Janet Puro

Frank Rau

Denise Rodgers, MD

Ruprecht, Hart, Ricciardulli &
Sherman, LLP

Rutgers School of Health
Professions

Michael Skero

Kristina Smith

The Stone Center of NJ – in honor
of Joseph V. DiTrolino, MD

David E. Swee, MD

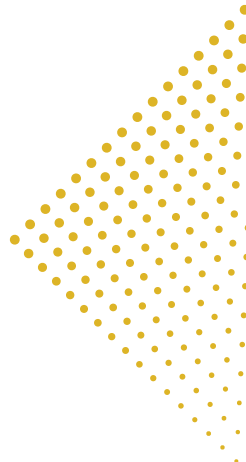
Scott Werfel

Doug Whitelock

Wendy Wojtaszek

Christopher Zipp, DO – in honor
of Trish O’Keefe

Michael Zebrick Media

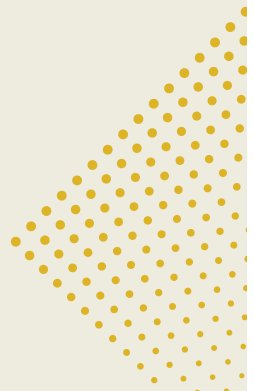




2021 AWARDS



**2021 EJI
Excellence
in Medicine
Honorees**





David S. Perlin, PhD

David S. Perlin, PhD, serves as the inaugural Chief Scientific Officer for the Hackensack Meridian *Health* Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI), which seeks to rapidly translate innovations in science to improve outcomes for patients with cancer, infectious diseases and autoimmune disorders.

Dr. Perlin has been engaged for more than 30 years in developing molecular insights and technologies to detect, combat and prevent deadly fungal, bacterial and viral infections. Prior to joining CDI, Dr. Perlin was Executive Director and Professor at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School's Public Health Research Institute and Director of the Rutgers Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL), one of 13 NIH-designated national centers for pathogen research.

Under Dr. Perlin's leadership, his group has provided important insights about drug resistance and its emergence and has developed important molecular detection platforms for pathogen detection. During COVID-19, his group established an early novel FDA EUA-approved COVID-19 molecular test, jointly developed a highly successful high-titer convalescent plasma therapy program for hospitalized COVID-19 patients with clinical partners, and engaged in drug discovery against SARS-CoV-2 with pharma and biotech partners.

Dr. Perlin has published more than 280 papers and book chapters and has co-authored two books. His laboratory is supported by multiple grants from the pharma and biopharma sectors and the NIH, which has continuously funded him for more than 30 years. He currently leads an NIH-designated National Center of Excellence in Translational Research (CETR) to discover novel anti-infectives against drug-resistant bacterial and viral infections.

Dr. Perlin has served on advisory boards for the NIH, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GAFFI, ADARC, and numerous pharma, biotech and diagnostic companies. He is also the founding Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of Fungi*. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and the New York Academy of Sciences. He was recently recognized by ROI-NJ as an ROI Influencer: Power List 2021 – Health Care.



Outstanding Scientist Award

This award is presented to an individual or individuals who have made important contributions leading to advances in treatment.

KEY LESSONS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Disease challenges like COVID-19 require the scientific community to step up, come together as a community to create knowledge and advance solutions, and let scientific truths be the guiding light. Science must be agnostic to politics on both sides of the aisle.
- The lightning-fast development and approval of the COVID-19 vaccines were not a miracle. It reflected an investment in virus basic science and various vaccine technologies over the past decade by government and industry. Without that investment, a COVID-19 vaccine would have been significantly delayed.
- The most important lesson of the past year for me is that respect for each other is the best way to ensure health and safety for all.



Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD

Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD, is Chair of the Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and Chief of Ophthalmology at University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey. A Professor of Ophthalmology and Neuroscience, Dr. Zarbin is the Alfonse A. Cinotti, MD/Lions Eye Research Chair and directs the Ocular Cell Transplantation Laboratory.

Dr. Zarbin graduated from Dartmouth College (κβΦ, with highest distinction) and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Medical Scientist Training Program, αΘα) and completed resident and fellowship training (vitreoretinal surgery and medical retina) at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute.

He has published 259 peer-reviewed papers and editorials, 123 book chapters, one book on age-related macular degeneration, two books on stem cell therapy for degenerative retinal disease and two books on the management of diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Zarbin is a Vice Chair of the Foundation Fighting Blindness Scientific Advisory Board; Editor-in-Chief of *Translational Vision Science and Technology*; a member of the editorial boards of *Ophthalmology*, *Ophthalmology Retina* and *the Journal of Vitreoretinal Diseases*; and is a member of Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis.

Dr. Zarbin has received the Community Contribution Award from the Seton Hall Law School Peter W. Rodino, Jr. Society, the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Award, the Visionary of the Year Award from the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey and the Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



EJI Physician's Award[®]

This award is presented to a New Jersey physician for dedication and extraordinary service to the profession and to the citizens of the state.

MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE

The renowned trauma surgeon, Ambroise Pare (1510–1590), said, *“Je le pansai, Dieu le guerit.”* (“I treated him; God cured him.”) Once a surgeon’s career is advanced enough, he or she will have encountered more than one patient whose recovery seems inexplicable, even miraculous. My experience has been no different. Although there have been a number of rewarding experiences involving patients of all ages and occupations, preserving or restoring vision in children may be the most gratifying, because it spares them and their parents the vicissitudes associated with a lifetime of blindness.

BEST ADVICE FOR PEERS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS

Philip Tumulty, MD, a brilliant physician at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, was admired by everyone for his remarkable skills. Patients were referred to him from throughout the United States. When asked what advice he could give that would enable all of us to achieve this level of excellence, he said, *“When you are taking care of a patient, look into their eyes and try to see the eyes of someone you love.”*



Peter W. Rodino, Jr. Citizen's Award[®]

This award is presented to a citizen or group of citizens of New Jersey who merits recognition for distinguished service in advancing and promoting the health and well-being of the people of our state.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Only life lived for others is a life worthwhile." – Albert Einstein

BEST ADVICE I RECEIVED

Always have the patient at the center of your decision. Be fair and consistent and listen actively. From Ruth O'Keefe, RN, nurse, healthcare administrator and my mom.

Trish O'Keefe, PhD, RN

Trish O'Keefe, PhD, RN, is President of Morristown Medical Center and Chief Nursing Executive and Vice President of Atlantic Health System.

Under Dr. O'Keefe's leadership, Morristown Medical Center has received numerous top rankings and accolades at the state and national levels, including being the only hospital in New Jersey named one of America's "50 Best Hospitals" for five consecutive years by Healthgrades. Morristown Medical Center is nationally recognized in cardiology, orthopedics, critical care, geriatrics and gastroenterology—a testament to the quality Dr. O'Keefe expects. Leapfrog recognized the medical center with an "A" hospital safety grade—its highest—eleven consecutive times, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recognized the Medical Center with its highest five-star rating again in 2019. Dr. O'Keefe was also instrumental in the Medical Center's prestigious designation as an American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Hospital for Nursing Excellence five consecutive times—making the Center one of less than one percent of hospitals nationally to achieve this honor.

Dr. O'Keefe is executively responsible for Atlantic Health System's cardiology, oncology, orthopedic, pediatric and women's health service lines. She also coordinates a systemwide approach for Atlantic Health System nursing and patient experience. Dr. O'Keefe is a noted presenter on national and regional stages on topics such as leading through a crisis: COVID-19, redesigning healthcare, empowerment and shared governance models, achievement of magnet status, resiliency in leadership, nursing's role in the accountable care organization (ACO), geriatric care and medication management and care for the caregiver.

She has been recognized at the United Nations as one of "21 Nurses with Global Impact," by *Irish America* magazine in its Healthcare and Life Sciences "50 List," by the American Cancer Society as a Hero of Hope, by NJ Biz as a 2018 Vanguard Series Leader in Health Care, by ROI-NJ as a "Top 50 Power Influencer" in 2020, by Seton Hall University with the Margaret C. Haley Award for making a significant contribution to healthcare and by the Morris County Chamber of Commerce as a "Woman Who Shines." She was recognized with the UMDNJ Dean's Award for Advancing the Profession of Nursing and the ONE/NJ Nurse Executive of the Year Award and Professional Recognition Award. She is also the recipient of the Mary A. Mulholland Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America and was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award from DePaul Catholic High School in Wayne, New Jersey. Dr. O'Keefe was also recently honored by the Tri-County Scholarship Fund.

Dr. O'Keefe has participated as a member of Seton Hall University President's Advisory Board, a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), the New Jersey Organization of Nurse Executives (ONE/NJ) and Sigma Theta Tau International (the Honor Society of Nursing). She is certified as a nurse administrator by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). She received her BS degree in nursing from Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and her MS degree in nursing administration and her PhD from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.



Charles J. Gatt, Jr., MD

Charles J. Gatt, Jr., MD, is an orthopaedic surgeon at University Orthopaedic Associates, and Chair, Residency Program Director and Associate Professor at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS).

Dr. Gatt holds various positions of influence in the orthopaedic field. In addition to his positions at RWJMS and his busy orthopaedic sports medicine practice, he is Orthopaedic Consultant and Team Physician at Rutgers University, Head Orthopaedic Consultant for Rider University Athletics and Program Director of the Limb Salvage Program at Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine (AFIRM). He has also developed a career as a physician-scientist, with his research efforts focused on the field of tissue engineering.

Throughout his career as an orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Gatt has been involved in numerous clinical orthopaedic projects ranging from the spine to the knee joint. The publications early in his career as a clinician focused on spine and joint kinematics under loading. More recent publications have focused on anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscus injuries and reconstruction. This body of work spans all areas of orthopaedics, improving on knowledge and techniques in the field.

Dr. Gatt is board certified in orthopaedic surgery. He obtained his medical degree from UMDNJ-RWJMS after earning his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Lafayette College. He completed an internship and residency at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Following his residency, he did a fellowship specializing in orthopaedic sports medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Dr. Gatt has been honored with various awards attesting to his impact on the healthcare community.

During the past decade, Dr. Gatt and Dr. Dunn have guided the development of MeniscoFix™, a novel, patented implant developed in their Orthopaedic Research Laboratory to replace the meniscus of the knee after severe injury. The basic science project gradually evolved into a translational product development effort, with Dr. Dunn and Dr. Gatt co-founding NovoPedics, Inc., a medical device start-up company initially funded by the NJ Health Foundation—Foundation Venture Capital Group. Based on the research performed in their lab and recent DoD-funded commercialization efforts at NovoPedics, MeniscoFix™ (which has structural and functional properties similar to those of the native human meniscus) has the potential to restore knee function and prevent development of osteoarthritis in patients suffering from severe meniscus tears or post-meniscectomy syndrome. Their work has been part of the prestigious Armed Forces Institute for Regenerative Medicine and has received national recognition, including the Excellence in Research Award from the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine. The novelty and potential clinical impact of this device was recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who recently granted “breakthrough device designation” to MeniscoFix™.



Special Award for Innovation

This special award is being presented in recognition of the recipient’s entrepreneurial spirit and innovations in the medical field.

WHAT I WOULD CHANGE IN HEALTHCARE IF GIVEN THE CHANCE

I would change the current drive for increased documentation, which has taken away from practicing “the art of medicine.”

KEY LESSONS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I have learned that people’s fears are real to them regardless of whether they are substantiated by science, and these fears should be respected.



Michael G. Dunn, PhD

Michael G. Dunn, PhD, is a tenured Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Founding Director of the Orthopaedic Research Laboratories at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. His doctoral training in biomedical engineering focused on wound healing and the biomechanical and biological properties of extracellular matrix-derived biomaterials. During his 32-year academic career, he has obtained numerous research grants, including federal funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Defense (DoD), pertaining to tissue engineering strategies for musculoskeletal soft tissue repair and reconstruction utilizing collagen-based, synthetic and composite resorbable biomaterials. He has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed publications and holds eight U.S. patents, while supervising the doctoral or master's research projects of 20 graduate students. Numerous orthopaedic residents, medical students and undergraduate students have also trained in his lab.

During the past decade, Dr. Gatt and Dr. Dunn have guided the development of MeniscoFix™, a novel, patented implant developed in their Orthopaedic Research Laboratory to replace the meniscus of the knee after severe injury. The basic science project gradually evolved into a translational product development effort, with Dr. Dunn and Dr. Gatt co-founding NovoPedics, Inc., a medical device start-up company initially funded by the NJ Health Foundation—Foundation Venture Capital Group. Based on the research performed in their lab and recent DoD-funded commercialization efforts at NovoPedics, MeniscoFix™ (which has structural and functional properties similar to those of the native human meniscus) has the potential to restore knee function and prevent development of osteoarthritis in patients suffering from severe meniscus tears or post-meniscectomy syndrome. Their work has been part of the prestigious Armed Forces Institute for Regenerative Medicine and has received national recognition, including the Excellence in Research Award from the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine. The novelty and potential clinical impact of this device was recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who recently granted “breakthrough device designation” to MeniscoFix™.



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THE GREATEST CHALLENGE I HAVE FACED IN MY CAREER

Balancing career and personal life can be a challenge, but I learned over time that having a rewarding personal and family life also makes you happier and more productive in your career.

THE MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE OF MY CAREER

Hearing about the successful careers of the many students who have trained in my laboratory.

KEY LESSONS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Cherish everyone every day, and don't sweat the small stuff.



John F. Bonamo, MD, MS

John F. Bonamo, MD, MS, is Executive Vice President and Chief Medical and Quality Officer, RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH).

Dr. John F. Bonamo is a physician executive with a distinguished clinical background in obstetrics and gynecology and a proven track record in hospital leadership. In 1981, after earning his medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and completing his residency at Saint Barnabas Medical Center (SBMC), Dr. Bonamo joined the hospital's medical staff. In 2000, he became Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs at SBMC and in 2001 was appointed President and CEO.

Dr. Bonamo was named Executive Vice President and Chief Medical and Quality Officer of RWJBarnabas Health in 2015. In this role, he leads the system's journey as a high reliability organization, an initiative to secure top-tier clinical outcomes and deliver the highest quality care and safest experience for patients and the RWJBH workforce. Dr. Bonamo is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and of the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and is a member of the New Jersey Obstetrical and Gynecological Society. He is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Bonamo holds a Master of Science in Health Care Management from Harvard's School of Public Health and guest lectures in the Health Policy and Management Department. Since 2006, Dr. Bonamo has been a faculty member of the Beijing University International Management Program, teaching in the U.S. and China. He serves as visiting Professor in the University of Beijing master's program for hospital management.



Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award

This award is presented to an executive in a healthcare-related organization or field who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the enhancement of patient care and medical practice in New Jersey.

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE I FACED IN MY CAREER

During my tenure as President and CEO at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, I worked with my senior leadership team to create a closed model intensive care unit (ICU) staffed by board-certified intensive care physicians. This created remarkable unrest within the physician community involved with the ICU. Over an 18-month process, we remained steadfast in our resolve to move forward, as this was the right thing to do for our patients in the ICU. Several years later, the New Jersey Hospital Association highlighted the care delivered in the SBMC ICU as the model to which all hospitals in the state should aspire. The lesson learned was do the right thing for the right reason, despite how difficult it is.

BEST ADVICE FOR PEERS AND FUTURE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

We should never forget we are in the most honorable profession in the world. We work with people at their most vulnerable. They trust themselves to us, and we owe them our best.



Linda Boyd, DO

Linda Boyd, DO, recently served as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Family Medicine, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM).

A graduate of UMDNJ School of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Boyd has 33 years of experience in academic medicine and a record of excellence in education, funded research, course administration and medical school administration, including 12 years of experience as a Dean. She previously worked at the New Jersey Medical School in Newark, where she was Course Director in a comprehensive doctoring course, a Clerkship Director in family medicine and the Interim Dean for curriculum. Before joining RowanSOM, she worked at Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Georgia, where she was the Associate Dean for Regional Campus Coordination. She was responsible for developing and then managing four regional campuses in the state of Georgia. Since joining RowanSOM in 2013, she helped the transition from UMDNJ to Rowan University, increased the class size and worked toward an additional medical school location. Dr. Boyd is board certified in Family Medicine and practiced in Sewell, New Jersey until recently. Dr. Boyd has accepted a position as Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine starting in July 2021.

Her interests in teaching and research are in evidence-based medicine and non-cognitive domains in medical education, such as empathy, burnout and resilience. Her passion is to try to build a medical school environment and curriculum that is “kinder and gentler” and allows students to maintain some level of balance throughout their training.



Outstanding Medical Educator Award

This award is presented to a medical educator who has made an outstanding contribution to graduate or undergraduate medical education in New Jersey.

WHAT I WOULD CHANGE IN HEALTHCARE IF GIVEN THE CHANCE

I would make medical school free with a service requirement. I would remove the burden of being an EMR scribe from doctors and return them to doing doctoring work. I would establish a single payor system for healthcare with all citizens covered.

BEST ADVICE FOR MY PEERS

Continue to teach, because it keeps you on your toes and up to date. Always remember that we do this work for the patients, not for the income. Medicine is service work, and patients should always be at the center of what we do.

BEST ADVICE FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

Choose a specialty you love, because you'll be doing it a long time. Always remember why you wanted to be a doctor. It will help to reflect on that when you have long, hard days.

KEY LESSONS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Life is short and unpredictable, so in addition to working hard, make sure to take time to enjoy life, take care of yourself and surround yourself with friends and family you love.



Eric G. Jahn, MD

(ON BEHALF OF THE ERIC B. CHANDLER HEALTH CENTER)

Eric G. Jahn, MD, will accept the Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award on behalf of the Eric B. Chandler Health Center. Dr. Jahn is Senior Associate Dean for Community Health, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health and Division Chief of Community Health at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS).



Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award

This award is presented to an individual who has personified, led and provided the vision for an organization, and to the organization served, for extraordinary commitment to improving the health and welfare of the citizens of New Jersey.

In his role as Senior Associate Dean for Community Health, Dr. Jahn is responsible for oversight of the community health mission of RWJMS. Major activities in this mission include the following: the Eric B. Chandler Health Center, medical student community-based service learning initiatives, community-based health improvement projects, a community interpreter program and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Project ECHO™, a telementoring program that increases primary care providers' capabilities to care for complex patients.

Before his appointment as the Senior Associate Dean, Dr. Jahn served as the Medical Director of the Eric B. Chandler Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center operated by Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in conjunction with the Eric B. Chandler Community Board, Inc. Dr. Jahn served in this capacity from 1993 to 2009 and was Principal Investigator on its Ryan White funded initiatives. Dr. Jahn has been involved with numerous initiatives at the Chandler Health Center to improve medical practice outcomes and improve health disparities.

Dr. Jahn earned his AB degree at Princeton University and received his medical degree from UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He completed his residency and fellowship in general internal medicine at the University of California Irvine Medical Center. Dr. Jahn maintains a practice in general internal medicine at the Eric B. Chandler Health Center.

THE MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE OF MY CAREER

Taking part in the growth and evolution of the Eric B. Chandler Health Center. During my 27 years of involvement with the Center, it has grown from a small community health center facing numerous challenges into a high-performing organization that is recognized nationally by HRSA as delivering high-quality medical care.

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE I FACED IN MY CAREER

Working in a resource-constrained environment has forced me to evaluate and understand the true health impact of committed resources. It has also driven me to collaborate with others who have similar goals in improving the overall health of our communities.

BEST ADVICE I RECEIVED

"When you are unsure of what path to take, do what is in the best interest of your patients and community." ~Dr. Denise Rodgers, Vice Chancellor for Interprofessional Programs at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences



Joseph V. DiTrollo, MD

Joseph V. DiTrollo, MD, is a urologist in private practice in Roseland, New Jersey, and Clinical Professor, Department of Surgery– Division of Urology, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Dr. DiTrollo holds numerous patents, is involved in all aspects of technology and is a consultant for some of the largest companies in the urological field. His groundbreaking work on fiber optic technology led to the development of virtually all of the current endoscopic equipment. He has presented more than 100 papers and published numerous articles, nationally and internationally. Holding American and Italian citizenship, he is a senior member of the European Urological Association, as well as the American Urological Association. He worked for Vitreous State Laboratories in Washington, D.C., under a NASA grant for the development and utilization of fiber optics.

Dr. DiTrollo has been on the faculty of New Jersey Medical School since 1985, where he holds a full professorship in the Department of Surgery and is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He has served as the Chair of the Department of Urology at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Hackensack UMC/Mountainside Hospital and the former St. Mary's Hospital in Orange, New Jersey. Since 1979, he has been affiliated with the East Orange Veterans Administration and continues to support and service our veterans. His current position involves compensation and dispensation for nuclear, biological and chemical warfare, as it relates to the urological system. Since graduating medical school, he has been a member of the Alumni Association of New Jersey Medical School, where he served three terms as President and is currently the Chairman of the Board.

Dr. DiTrollo graduated from West Orange High School, University of Richmond and New Jersey Medical School. He completed his urology training at New Jersey Medical School. He also attended the Université de Paris, Sorbonne. He is Editor-in-Chief of *Alumni Focus* for Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and is Executive Founding Editor of *The Journal of Medicine of New Jersey*.



Special Award for Innovation

This special award is being presented in recognition of the recipient's entrepreneurial spirit and innovations in the medical field.

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE I FACED IN MY CAREER

My father died while I was in my first year of medical school, and although I had no financial worries, I had to take over family affairs while continuing my medical education. This forced me to learn how to prioritize problems and solve them sequentially.

BEST ADVICE I RECEIVED

"Continue to move forward while everyone else is dealing with yesterday's problems, you are moving on to tomorrow's successes." ~Joseph DiTrollo, Jr.



Vivian Bellofatto, PhD

Vivian Bellofatto, PhD, is Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Microbiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Dr. Bellofatto received her undergraduate degree from Douglass College, Rutgers University, graduating with high honors in Biological Sciences under the mentorship of Dr. Evelyn Witkin. She received her PhD from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed a post-doc at the prestigious Rockefeller University in New York. Her area of research is infectious diseases.

Dr. Bellofatto's research is focused on determining how mRNAs are metabolized in parasites of medical importance, namely, the protozoa *Trypanosoma* hemoflagellates. During the past 32 years, she gained the expertise and knowledge base of necessary reagents to carry out her research, initially studying RNA metabolism in bacteria as part of her PhD thesis project, thus developing a broad background in prokaryotic and eukaryotic RNA metabolism. Dr. Bellofatto developed the first DNA transfection system for trypanosome parasites, setting the groundwork for the expansion of her laboratory from studying RNA transcription to RNA degradation and mRNA translation at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in 1993. Dr. Bellofatto's work has been featured in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the American Heart Association and other agencies since 1991. She has been a permanent member of several NIH review panels. In 2017, she was elected Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Bellofatto's laboratory continues to demonstrate a record of productive, creative and important research that leads to significant understanding of eukaryotic gene expression, trypanosome-specific molecular processes and infectious disease control.



Outstanding Scientist Award

This award is presented to an individual or individuals who have made important contributions leading to advances in treatment.

MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE OF MY CAREER

Our discovery of the very first RNA transcription factor in disease-causing trypanosome parasites. This discovery set the stage for our understanding how these parasites have survived and caused disease since ancient times on Earth.

KEY LESSONS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I have learned that intelligent, educated people have a very limited understanding of the important differences between bacteria and viruses. I now recognize that it is not boring at all to simply watch the moon rise or set, play a board game with family or plan what I will cook for dinner. I now know that excellent scientific articles are available to the public just by reading *The Economist*. I have learned that encouragement to my staff and faculty in biomedical science goes a long way, and that one never tires of hearing "good job." I have seen that all our hard work on RNA biology, cell surface receptors, nucleic acid enzymology, lipid-based delivery systems and serious investments in all type of biological research is truly a key asset to humanity in unfathomable ways.



Steven K. Libutti, MD, FACS

Steven K. Libutti, MD, FACS, is a distinguished physician who has made significant contributions in the field of oncology. In his roles as Director of the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) and Vice Chancellor for Cancer Programs at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, he is committed to enhancing the delivery of high-quality care. Concurrently, Dr. Libutti serves as Senior Vice President of Oncology Services for RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH), where he is responsible for the oversight and management of oncology services. His dual posts strengthen the successful public-private partnership between RWJBarnabas Health and Rutgers University, ensuring the integration of the clinical and research missions of CINJ and RWJBH. Drawing from his outstanding background in administration and research, Dr. Libutti has made great advances as the Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, New Jersey's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated treatment center. He also spearheaded and is leading the New Jersey Statewide Cancer Programs Collaboration, a statewide taskforce implemented in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic to address oncology-related issues and needs across New Jersey.

As a surgical oncologist, Dr. Libutti is internationally renowned in endocrine surgery and the management of neuroendocrine tumors. Dr. Libutti graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and earned his medical degree from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. He completed his residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital and his fellowship at NCI. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, is Editor-in-Chief of the Nature Journal *Cancer Gene Therapy* and holds 11 U.S. patents. He is also a Professor of Surgery at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and an Affiliated Distinguished Professor in Genetics at Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences.



Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award

This award is presented to an executive in a healthcare-related organization or field who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the enhancement of patient care and medical practice in New Jersey.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Believe you can and you are halfway there." ~Theodore Roosevelt

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE I FACED IN MY CAREER

Changing culture. It requires an understanding that leadership is not the exercise of positional power but rather, the creation, communication and execution of a vision.

BEST ADVICE I RECEIVED

"Every cancer patient deserves an optimistic oncologist." ~Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, PhD

Past Recipients

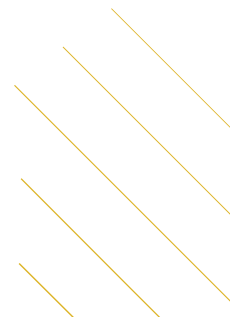
Edward J. III Physician's Award[®]

Wells P. Eagleton, MD.....	1939	Arthur Krosnick, MD.....	1982
Max Danzis, MD.....	1941	Leon G. Smith, MD.....	1983
E. Zeh Hawkes, MD.....	1942	Alfred A. Alessi, MD.....	1984
Arthur W. Bingham, MD.....	1943	Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD.....	1985
Harrison S. Martland, MD.....	1943	Palma Formica, MD.....	1986
Henry C. Barkhorn, MD.....	1944	Paul J. Hirsch, MD.....	1987
Edward W. Spraque, MD.....	1945	Richard C. Reynolds, MD.....	1988
Charles H. Schlichter, MD.....	1946	Ervin Moss, MD.....	1989
Clarence R. O'Crowley, MD.....	1947	James Oleske, MD.....	1989
Royal A. Schaff, MD.....	1948	Leighton E. Cluff, MD.....	1990
Henry H. Kessler, MD.....	1951	Robert V. P. Hutter, MD.....	1991
William O. Wuester, MD.....	1952	Frederick B. Cohen, MD.....	1992
Henry B. Orton, MD.....	1953	Benjamin F. Rush, Jr., MD.....	1993
Samuel A. Cosgrove, MD.....	1954	Joseph A. Riggs, MD.....	1994
Hilton Shreve Read, MD.....	1956	Bernard A. Rineberg, MD.....	1995
Herbert A. Schulte, MD.....	1957	Donald K. Brief, MD.....	1996
George N. J. Sommer, MD.....	1958	Ralph J. Fioretti, MD.....	1997
Joseph I. Echikson, MD.....	1959	David I. Canavan, MD.....	1998
William Francis Costello, MD.....	1960	Bernard Robins, MD.....	1999
Lyndon A. Peer, MD.....	1961	Joseph F. Fennelly, MD.....	2000
William H. Hahn, MD.....	1962	Arlene D. Bardeguez, MD.....	2001
Clymont MacArthur, MD.....	1963	Leah Z. Ziskin, MD.....	2002
Jerome G. Kaufman, MD.....	1964	Alan J. Lippman, MD.....	2003
Edward C. Klein, Jr., MD.....	1965	William V. Harrer, MD.....	2004
Philip Levine, MD.....	1966	Stuart D. Cook, MD.....	2005
William G. Bernhard, MD.....	1967	William N. Hait, MD, PhD.....	2006
Elton W. Lance, MD.....	1968	Arnold P. Gold, MD.....	2007
Mary Bacon, MD.....	1969	Walter J. Kahn, MD.....	2008
Roscoe P. Kandle, MD.....	1970	Kenneth G. Swan, MD.....	2009
Oscar Auerbach, MD.....	1971	Denise V. Rodgers, MD.....	2010
Spencer T. Snedecor, MD.....	1972	Mark Jay Zucker, MD, JD.....	2011
Carroll M. Leevy, MD.....	1973	Jeffrey C. Brenner, MD.....	2012
Louis F. Albright, MD.....	1974	Robert L. Johnson, MD.....	2013
Eddy D. Palmer, MD.....	1975	George F. Heinrich, MD.....	2014
Seymour Charles, MD.....	1976	Margaret C. Fisher, MD.....	2015
Arthur Bernstein, MD.....	1977	Jean Anderson Eloy, MD.....	2016
Victor Parsonnet, MD.....	1978	Maria Soto-Greene, MD, MS-HPed.....	2017
Lena F. Edwards, MD.....	1979	Soly Baredes, MD.....	2018
James S. Todd, MD.....	1980	Roger K. Strair, MD, PhD.....	2019
James A. Rogers, MD.....	1981		

Past Recipients

Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen's Award[®]

John S. Thompson.....	1956	Paul Armstrong, Esq.	1989
Marian H. Barker.....	1957	Arline Schwartzman.....	1990
George E. Stringfellow.....	1958	Vincent A. Maressa, Esq.	1991
Senator John Milton.....	1959	Elizabeth Boggs, PhD.....	1992
Harvey Black.....	1960	H. Lee Gladstein, RP.....	1993
Selman A. Waksman, PhD.....	1961	Burton L. Eichler, Esq.....	1994
Lawrence D. Barney.....	1962	Helen F. Boehm.....	1995
Mason W. Gross, PhD.....	1963	Lorraine Sciara.....	1996
John D. Brungage.....	1964	Judge Herbert J. Stern.....	1997
Lodovico Mancusi-Ungaro, MD.....	1965	Regina Carlson.....	1998
Charles J. Buesing.....	1966	Clark W. Martin.....	1999
Marion A. Yaguda.....	1967	Lester Z. Lieberman.....	2000
Mrs. Hobart C. Ramsey.....	1968	Harold Tafler Shapiro, PhD.....	2001
Donald G. Borg.....	1969	Senator John G. Sinagra.....	2002
Homer A. Vilas.....	1970	Steve Adubato, PhD.....	2003
Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Carey.....	1971	Assemblyman Herbert C. Conaway, Jr., MD.....	2004
Senator Clifford P. Case.....	1972	Assemblyman Neil M. Cohen.....	2005
Lloyd B. Wescott.....	1973	Senate President and Former Governor Richard J. Codey and Mary Jo Codey.....	2006
Henry M. Kennedy.....	1974	Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen and Betty Gallo.....	2007
Eva Gottscho.....	1975	Senator Peter A. Inverso.....	2008
Julius A. Rippel.....	1976	Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD.....	2009
Sister Patricia Aidan Lynch, CSJ.....	1977	Major General Maria Falca-Dodson.....	2010
Gustav O. Lienhard.....	1978	Eve E. Slater, MD.....	2012
Monsignor Raymond J. Pollard.....	1979	Mike Adler & the Adler Aphasia Center.....	2013
Richard J. Hughes, Esq.....	1980	Donald M. Chervenak, MD.....	2014
Alan Sagner.....	1981	Captain Joseph P. Costabile, MD.....	2015
William Walsh, Jr.....	1982	Anita Chopra, MD.....	2016
Herman and Anne Somers.....	1983	Alfred F. Tallia, MD, MPH.....	2017
Congressman James Courter.....	1984	Steve Kalafer.....	2018
Mary Mulholland.....	1985	Jack Morris.....	2019
Malcolm A. Borg.....	1986		
Mary Strong.....	1987		
Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick.....	1988		



Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award

Arthur R. Ellenberger.....	1998	Gary S. Carter, FACHE.....	2009
John P. Ferguson.....	2000	Monsignor Robert T. Sheeran.....	2010
Harvey A. Holzberg.....	2001	Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA.....	2011
John Lloyd.....	2002	William F. Owen, Jr., MD.....	2012
Maurice E. Goldman, MD.....	2003	Robert C. Garrett, FACHE.....	2013
Richard P. Miller.....	2004	Stephen K. Jones, FACHE.....	2014
Christy Stephenson.....	2005	Amy B. Mansue.....	2015
Robert P. Wise, FACHE.....	2006	Barry H. Ostrowsky.....	2016
Joanne M. Conroy, MD.....	2007	Alexander J. Hatala, FACHE.....	2017
Audrey R. Gotsch, DrPH, CHES.....	2007	Andre Goy, MD, MS.....	2018
Judith Burgis.....	2008	Gary S. Horan, FACHE.....	2019
Eileen Moynihan, MD.....	2008		

Outstanding Medical Educator Award

Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD.....	1998	Deepak V. Patel, MD.....	2008
Gerard F. Hansen, MD.....	1999	Nagaswami S. Vasan, DVM, PhD.....	2009
Ruy V. Luorenco, MD.....	2000	Marjorie C. Brandriss, PhD.....	2010
Sindy M. Paul, MD, MPH.....	2001	Sylvia Christakos, PhD.....	2011
Gloria Bachmann, MD.....	2002	Jeffrey S. Abrams, MD.....	2012
Stuart D. Cook, MD.....	2003	Nayan Kothari, MD.....	2013
Eddy A. Bresnitz, MD, MS.....	2004	Carol A. Terregino, MD.....	2013
Thomas Bojko, MD, MS.....	2005	David E. Swee, MD.....	2014
Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO.....	2005	Richard P. Mackessy, MD.....	2015
Peter W. Carmel, MD.....	2006	Sara Cuccurullo, MD.....	2016
Vincent K. McInerney, MD.....	2006	John W. Sensakovic, MD, PhD.....	2017
Robert L. Trelstad, MD.....	2007	Stephen Garrett, PhD.....	2019
Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD.....	2007	Bonita F. Stanton, MD.....	2019
Joel A. DeLisa, MD, MS.....	2008		

Outstanding Scientist Award

Joseph R. Bertino, MD.....	2009	Frederick F. Buechel, Sr., MD.....	2014
Aaron J. Shatkin, PhD.....	2009	Peter Lobel, PhD.....	2014
John B. Kostis, MD.....	2010	M. Maral Mouradian, MD.....	2015
Sidney Pestka, MD.....	2010	Estela Jacinto, PhD.....	2015
Stephen F. Lowry, MD, MBA.....	2011	Robert Korngold, PhD.....	2016
Masayori Inouye, PhD.....	2011	Nancy D. Connell, PhD.....	2017
Jeffrey L. Carson, MD.....	2012	Larry Hirsch, MD.....	2017
Paola Leone, PhD.....	2012	Pranela Rameshwar, PhD.....	2018
Suhayl Dhib-Jalbut, MD.....	2013	Ana K. Stankovic, MD, PhD, MSPH.....	2018
Smita S. Patel, PhD.....	2013	William C. Gause, PhD.....	2019

Past Recipients

Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award

Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc.	2004	Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD – <i>on behalf of The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities</i>	2011
UMDNJ – Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities	2005	Judy Donlen, RN, DNSc, JD – <i>on behalf of Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative</i>	2012
Camden Area Health Education Center, Inc. (AHEC)	2006	Kathleen Horn, RN, CIC – <i>on behalf of Hunterdon Medical Center Infection Prevention Team</i>	2013
Mark D. Peters II, PharmD – <i>on behalf of Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership</i>	2007	Faith W. Rice – <i>on behalf of New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome & Associated Disorders</i>	2014
Henry Acosta, MSW, LSW – <i>on behalf of the National Resource Center for Hispanic Mental Health</i>	2008	Christopher O. Kosseff – <i>on behalf of Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care</i>	2016
Monsignor William J. Linder – <i>on behalf of New Community Corporation</i>	2008	Chantal Brazeau, MD – <i>on behalf of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Student Family Health Care Center</i>	2017
John W. Beckley, MPH – <i>on behalf of Hunterdon County Partnership for Health</i>	2009	Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth	2018
Martin A. Finkel, DO – <i>on behalf of Child Abuse Research Education & Service (CARES) Institute</i>	2010	David S. Kountz, MD, MBA – <i>on behalf of Hackensack Meridian Health</i>	2019

Special Awards

For the extraordinary trauma care provided to Governor Jon Corzine

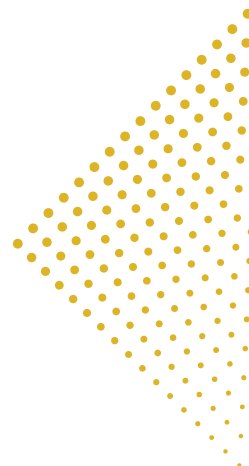
Steven E. Ross, MD and Robert F. Ostrum, MD 2008

For achievements in protecting the people of New Jersey from unnecessary exposure to radiation from natural and man-made sources

Jill A. Lipoti, PhD 2009

To the founders and sponsors of Holy Name Medical Center for their service as champions of the underserved, the poor, the sick, immigrants and the powerless, in New Jersey and beyond

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace (CSJP) 2016





IN MEMORY OF
BESSIE M. SULLIVAN, MD
ACCOMPLISHED PHYSICIAN & CHERISHED FRIEND

We remember the legacy of our friend and longstanding MDAAdvantage Board member, Bessie M. Sullivan, MD. Dr. Sullivan was a highly regarded rheumatologist and a committed supporter of the EJI Scholarship fund.

She will be greatly missed by all of us.

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RWJBarnabas Health proudly supports the annual
Edward J. III Awards and congratulates this year's honorees:

Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award:

John F. Bonamo, MD, MS

Executive Vice President and Chief Medical and Quality Officer, RWJBarnabas Health

Steven K. Libutti, MD

Director, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Senior Vice President, Oncology Services,
RWJBarnabas Health,
Vice Chancellor, Cancer Programs,
Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences

Edward J. III Physician's Award®:

Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD

Alfonse Cinotti, MD/New Jersey Lions Eye Research
Professor and Chair, Institute of Ophthalmology and
Visual Science, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award:

Eric G. Jahn, MD *(on behalf of Eric B. Chandler Health Center),*

Senior Associate Dean for Community Health,
Associate Professor of Family Medicine and
Community Health, and Division Chief of Community
Health, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Outstanding Scientist Award:

Vivian Bellofatto, PhD

Professor and Interim Chair,
Department of Microbiology,
Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics,
Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences,
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Special Award for Innovation:

Joseph V. DiTrolio, MD

Urologist and Clinical Professor,
Department of Surgery—Division of Urology,
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Charles J. Gatt, Jr., MD

Orthopedic Surgeon, University Orthopedic Associates
Chair, Program Director and Associate Professor,
Department of Orthopedic Surgery,
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Chief, Orthopaedic Surgery,
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Michael G. Dunn, PhD

Professor, Department of Orthopedic Surgery,
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

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The Unterberg Children's Hospital
Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and
Children's Hospital of New Jersey
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and
The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Saint Barnabas Medical Center
RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center
Children's Specialized Hospital
RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

We are proud
to congratulate our President,
Trish O'Keefe, PhD, RN
on receiving the
Peter W. Rodino, Jr.
Citizen's Award
for her distinguished service
in advancing the health
and well-being of
the people of New Jersey.



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Congratulate

Trish O'Keefe, PhD, RN, John F. Bonamo, MD, MS,
Tara Fisher, PA - S3, Charles J. Gatt, Jr., MD, and
Michael G. Dunn, PhD

and all

EJI EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE
AWARDEES and SCHOLARS

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and

Reflect your Dedication and Commitment
To Our Profession and to Those We Serve

Vincent K. McInerney, MD
Anthony Festa, MD
Anthony Scillia, MD
John Callaghan, MD
Craig Wright, MD
Casey M. Pierce, MD

Arash Emami, MD
Ki S. Hwang, MD
Kumar G. Sinha, MD
Michael J. Faloon, MD
Pamela D'Amato, MD

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Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School congratulate our honorees on their selection as 2021 Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Awardees, as well as each of this year's honorees and scholarship recipients. We are proud of the work you do for patients and families in New Jersey and for the physicians of tomorrow.

Outstanding Scientist Award



Vivian Bellofatto, PhD
Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Microbiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
New Jersey Medical School

Special Award for Innovation



Charles J. Gatt Jr., MD
Chair, Residency Program Director and Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School;
Orthopaedic Surgeon
University Orthopaedic Associates

Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award



John F. Bonamo, MD, MS
Executive Vice President,
Chief Medical and Quality Officer
RWJBarnabas Health

Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award



Eric G. Jahn, MD, on behalf of the Eric B. Chandler Health Center
Senior Associate Dean for
Community Health
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Special Award for Innovation



Joseph V. DiTrollo, MD
Clinical Professor, Department of Surgery – Division of Urology
New Jersey Medical School

Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award



Steven K. Libutti, MD
Director, Cancer Institute of New Jersey;
Vice Chancellor for Cancer Programs
Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences;
Senior Vice President, Oncology Services
RWJBarnabas Health

Special Award for Innovation



Michael G. Dunn, PhD
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and
Founding Director of the Orthopaedic
Research Laboratories
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Edward J. III Physician's Award®



Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD
Chair, Institute of Ophthalmology and
Visual Science
New Jersey Medical School;
Chief of Ophthalmology
University Hospital, Newark

Our 2021 EJI Scholarship Recipients

Charris Allen – Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Jasmine Flowers – Rutgers School of Health Professions
Afra Guia Antoinette Trinidad – Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

Nathalia Arias-Alzate – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Britney Wilson – New Jersey Medical School

PAUL J. HIRSCH, MD

Congratulates

**The 2021
EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE
HONOREES**

And

**The 2020 and 2021
EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE
SCHOLARS**

And Extends

**GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION
To The
GENEROUS SUPPORTERS
OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP HONOR ROLL**

AND TO THE

AMAZING TEAM AT



FOR MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE

Congratulations


to the 2020 and 2021
Excellence in Medicine Scholarship Recipients

Best wishes on your continued success.

Patricia A. Costante

*the
future
belongs to
those who believe
in the
beauty
of their
dreams.*

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



Congratulations to all
of this year's honorees
and the 2020 & 2021
scholarship recipients.

Your dedication has significantly impacted the
delivery of healthcare for future generations.



With Sincere Admiration,
Dr. & Mrs. George F. Heinrich

RUTGERS

New Jersey Medical School

Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
and

Dr. and Mrs. Jean Anderson Eloy and
Soly Baredes, MD

Wish to Congratulate The 2021 Award Recipients

Linda Boyd, DO

John F. Bonamo, MD, MS

Steven K. Libutti, MD

Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD

Vivian Bellofatto, PhD

David S. Perlin, PhD

Trish O’Keefe, PhD, RN

Joseph V. DiTrolino, MD

Charles J. Gatt, Jr., MD and Michael G. Dunn, PhD

Eric G. Jahn, MD, on behalf of the
Eric B. Chandler Health Center



**Best Wishes to the 2020 and 2021
Excellence in Medicine Scholarship Students**



**is proud to join with the
EJI Excellence in Medicine Foundation
to honor tonight's
outstanding award recipients
for their exceptional accomplishments and
dedication to advancing healthcare in
New Jersey and around the world.**

*Supporting Advances in Health Research and
Innovation in New Jersey*

DEAN JANEWAY | CHAIR

GEORGE F. HEINRICH, M.D. | VICE CHAIR & CEO

JAMES M. GOLUBIESKI | PRESIDENT

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and Rutgers University Foundation proudly sponsor the **Edward J. III awards** and congratulate this year's awardees:

OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVE AWARD:

Steven K. Libutti, MD

Director, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Senior Vice President, Oncology Services,
RWJBarnabas Health
Vice Chancellor, Cancer Programs,
Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences

EDWARD J. ILL PHYSICIAN'S AWARD®:

Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD

Alfonse Cinotti, MD/New Jersey Lions Eye
Research Professor and Chair, Institute
of Ophthalmology and Visual Science,
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

VERICE M. MASON COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADER AWARD:

Eric G. Jahn, MD

(on behalf of Eric B. Chandler Health Center)
Senior Associate Dean for Community Health,
Associate Professor of Family Medicine and
Community Health, and Division Chief of
Community Health, Rutgers Robert Wood
Johnson Medical School

OUTSTANDING SCIENTIST AWARD:

Vivian Bellofatto, PhD

Professor and Interim Chair, Department
of Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Molecular
Genetics, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

SPECIAL AWARD FOR INNOVATION:

Joseph V. DiTrollo, MD

Urologist and Clinical Professor,
Department of Surgery-Division of Urology,
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Charles J. Gatt Jr., MD

Orthopaedic Surgeon, University Orthopaedic
Associates; and Chair, Program Director, and
Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedic
Surgery, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School

Michael G. Dunn, MD

Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School



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Congratulations to the 2021 EJI Award Recipients!

The Recognition is well deserved!

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**Jon Bombardieri
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Jon Boguchwal
David Glass
Nicole Howarth
Kyle England**



Congratulations to



Trish O'Keefe, PhD, RN,
President, Morristown Medical Center

and all the 2021 EJI Excellence in Medicine
scholarship and award recipients

*Thank you for your commitment to
building healthier communities*

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Steve Aduato, PhD
and the
Caucus Educational Corporation
congratulate the recipients of the
2021 EJI Excellence in Medicine Awards



One on One
with **Steve Aduato**

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AFFAIRS
with **STEVE ADUBATO**

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ADUBATO

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/SteveAduatoPhD



@SteveAduato



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HackensackMeridianHealth.org

CONGRATULATIONS

Hackensack Meridian *Health* is proud to recognize the
EJI Excellence in Medicine Awards Honorees.



David S. Perlin, Ph.D.

Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President
Hackensack Meridian *Health*

Dr. Perlin truly exemplifies a level of leadership that fully embodies Hackensack Meridian *Health's* mission to transform health care and serve as leaders of positive change.



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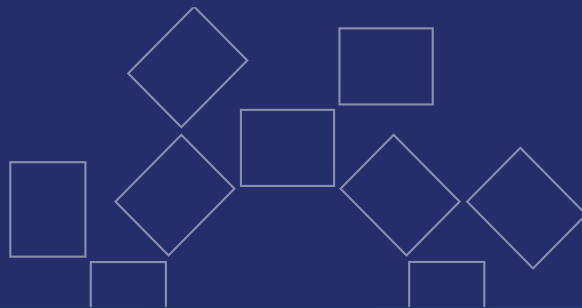
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2021 EJI Award Recipients

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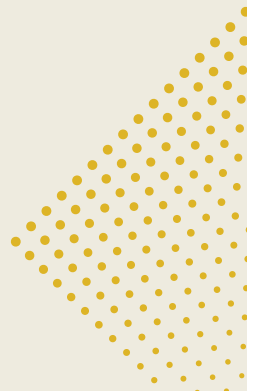


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2021 EJI Scholarship Recipients

**Congratulations to all our
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Charris Allen

**RUTGERS SCHOOL OF DENTAL
MEDICINE, CLASS OF 2021**



Charris Allen was born and raised in New Castle, DE, and currently resides in Newark, NJ. Since high school, she found an interest in the dental profession, and started working at Smile Brite Dental Care as a dental assistant during her senior year. Her boss and dentist at the time, Dr. Taurance Bishop, inspired her to become a dentist. She attended the University of Delaware (UD) in Newark, DE, and earned her BS in exercise science with a concentration in physiology. During her undergraduate education, she continued to work as a dental assistant throughout her summers, and worked part-time at UD as a Blue Hen Application Manager throughout the school year. Charris was also involved in multiple organizations on campus and served in executive board positions while staying involved in mentor/volunteer work.

After receiving her undergraduate degree, Charris moved to Newark, NJ, to continue her education at Rutgers School of Graduate Studies (SGS) (formerly known as Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences) and earned her master's degree in biomedical sciences with a concentration in pharmacological sciences. She continued to pursue her dream of becoming a dentist as she applied and matriculated into Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.

Charris is currently in her last year of dental school. Over the course of her time at RSDM, she held leadership and mentorship positions. In her third year, she became the President of the Rutgers Chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA), the student's auxiliary association of the National Dental Association (NDA). SNDA has a mission to promote, support and encourage a promising academic and social environment for minority dental students. As President, she managed eight other executive positions, planned community service and social events and held pre-clinic tutoring sessions for dental students. As Social Chair for the Arabic Dental Society, she assisted with event planning and promoted programs via social media. She also served as a mentor to pre-dental students enrolled in SGS.

After graduation, Charris will be completing a general practice residency at Christiana Care Hospital in Wilmington, DE. Her future goal is to own a practice in general dentistry. She is also interested in traveling abroad to provide dental care to underserved populations. Charris is passionate about mentoring students who are interested in the dental profession. Outside of dentistry, Charris enjoys cooking, spending time with close family and friends and trying new restaurants.



Nathalia Arias-Alzate

**RUTGERS ROBERT WOOD
JOHNSON MEDICAL SCHOOL,
CLASS OF 2021**



Originally from Colombia, Nathalia Arias-Alzate moved to the United States at the age of six. She was drawn to medicine from a young age, seeing patients in need of medical attention in her own community of Morristown, NJ. She was a first-generation college student at The College of New Jersey, and subsequently attended Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where she was inducted into both the Gold Humanism and AOA Honor Societies.

During her time in medical school, Nathalia actively worked with underserved and minority communities. She is a member of her school's student-run free clinic and helped establish the first Spanish-speaking mental health support group in New Brunswick, NJ. Nathalia's experiences and passions naturally drew her to family medicine. She sees the value of building long-term relationships with patients and hopes to give back to her community through compassion, humility and education.

By pursuing a career in primary care, Nathalia will strive to further understand and alleviate the many factors that reduce the quality of care received by ethnic and racial minorities in our country. After graduation, she will be staying at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School for a residency in family medicine. In her spare time, Nathalia enjoys spending time with her family and dogs, listening to true-crime podcasts and watching the occasional Netflix comedy series.



Brenda Arthur

**COOPER MEDICAL SCHOOL OF
ROWAN UNIVERSITY,
CLASS OF 2021**



Brenda Arthur was born in Brooklyn, NY, and raised in Teaneck, NJ. She graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey with a degree in biology and a minor in creative writing. Fascinated with science and the human body as well as humanities and literature, Brenda explored a few possible professions before deciding on medicine. She ultimately began her medical journey in Camden, NJ, at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

During medical school, Brenda has volunteered working with various organizations around Camden and collaborating with the Office of Diversity and Community Affairs at Cooper Medical School. As a member of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and the Gold Humanism Honor Society, she has assisted with various community events, pipeline programs, recruitment initiatives and schoolwide programming regarding societal issues.

Brenda is excited to bring humanistic medical care to the frontline of medicine. Brenda is pursuing a career in emergency medicine, and matched at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. She also has thoughts of possibly working in academia in the future. Outside of medical school, she enjoys traveling, the beach and spending time with family and friends.



Tara Fisher

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM, CLASS OF 2021



Tara Fisher is a North Jersey native from Vernon, NJ, and is currently residing in Sparta, NJ. She decided to pursue a profession in the medical field after spending time with different medical professionals as a scholar athlete in high school, including physicians, orthopedists, athletic trainers and physical therapists.

Tara later graduated from The College of New Jersey with honors, receiving her B.S. in health and exercise science. When she suffered an ankle injury playing soccer during her collegiate career, Tara had first-hand experience in the role of a physician assistant and was immediately drawn to the optimism, professionalism, leadership and team-driven attitude these professionals exhibited. Upon graduation and returning to full health, Tara worked as a Certified Exercise Physiologist by the American College of Sports Medicine at a fitness facility in Flemington, NJ, to gain further clinical experience prior to applying to graduate school for her dream profession. She had the ability to work with and learn from patients who had diagnoses of diabetes, obesity, hypertension, orthopedic pathologies, breast cancer and intellectual disabilities. To further broaden her patient care experiences, Tara also worked as a physical therapy aide.

Tara is currently pursuing her Master's in Physician Assistant Studies as a third-year student at Seton Hall University. She is currently the Vice President of the Physician Assistant Student Society at Seton Hall University (PASSSHU). She was selected as a graduate assistant for the Physician Assistant program. She also aids the faculty with interview sessions and open houses as a guide for potential students seeking the physician assistant profession.

After school, Tara plans to practice in the field of orthopedics and hopes one day to become a professor to pass on her knowledge and experience to other students. Outside of her studies, Tara spends much of her time exercising, strength training, drinking coffee, watching sports, spending time with friends and family, going to Long Beach Island and playing with her dogs.



Jasmine Flowers

**COOPER MEDICAL SCHOOL OF
ROWAN UNIVERSITY,
CLASS OF 2021**



Jasmine Flowers was born in Rockford, IL, and raised in Suwanee, GA. Jasmine always had a love for medicine, which led her to pursue her BS in biology and psychology from the University of Georgia. While at UGA, she became heavily involved in community activities, such as mentoring and volunteering at a mental health clinic that provided services for little to no cost. She also developed a love for teaching when she became a tutor at a homeless shelter. Overall, every experience focused on helping people with limited resources and reinforced her goal to do the same as a physician assistant.

Jasmine is currently a third-year physician assistant student at Rutgers University. While at Rutgers, she has focused extensively on being involved in activities that would highlight the prevalence of racial and socioeconomic disparities in healthcare. She served as President of the Rutgers Physician Assistant Student Society, where she focused on increasing community involvement. She continues to be involved in the Committee of Inclusion and Diversity, which aims to create an inclusive climate with the goal of making all program members feel supported. She is also involved in the Rutgers Physician Assistant Curriculum Equity Task Force, which focuses on advocating for curriculum initiatives that support racial equity.

Jasmine has a goal of working as a primary care physician assistant in underserved communities. She wants to be the type of provider that forges genuine relationships with patients so she can influence them to make decisions that can prevent detrimental health outcomes. In the future, she sees herself getting involved in education with the goal of guiding the next generation of PAs to practice culturally competent medicine. In her free time, Jasmine enjoys cooking, baking and spending quality time with her loved ones.



Catherine Hahn

**HACKENSACK MERIDIAN SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE, CLASS OF 2021**



Catherine Hahn is a northern New Jersey native who was born and raised in Westwood. For Catherine, the desire to become a doctor and help others began at a young age. The experiences she had working with children and shadowing pediatricians compelled her to devote her life to caring for children so they can fulfill their potential. Catherine attended Georgetown University, graduating with honors in English with minors in biology and theology. At Georgetown, she served as an EMT and crew chief while a member of the Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service (GERMS).

Catherine is currently in her final year at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. She is thrilled to be a member of the school's inaugural class and is honored to be part of a medical school with a mission to change the way healthcare is practiced in New Jersey. At HMSOM, Catherine served on the Student Advisory Group, representing the student body in meetings with faculty to help shape the school's curriculum. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Catherine was selected to join a small group of students who conducted research and provided up-to-date information on the virus to frontline clinicians since so much was unknown about the virus at the time. She published reports primarily focused on pediatrics and maternal-fetal health, such as infection control during deliveries of mothers with COVID-19 and the symptoms of COVID-19 in children. Now, Catherine volunteers at the Meadowlands COVID-19 vaccination mega site and administers vaccines to NJ residents.

Catherine recently matched into pediatrics residency at the Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital at Hackensack University Medical Center, and she is excited to care for children in her home community. Ultimately, her dream is to become a neonatologist, taking care of sick and premature infants in the NICU. In her spare time, she enjoys singing, reading, baking and spending time with family and friends.



Erin Hoag

**ROWAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE,
CLASS OF 2021**



Erin Hoag was born and raised in Berlin, NJ. Growing up, she was a three-sport athlete who always loved keeping busy and being part of a team. As she moved on to high school, field hockey became her passion and through that she found her home at Monmouth University. Pursuing a biology degree there, Monmouth provided her with so many incredible mentors in the medical field, as well as internships and volunteering opportunities that gave her a glimpse of the hospital atmosphere. She knew that helping to take care of people was her passion, and it was then that she fell in love with medicine.

Erin is currently a fourth-year student at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. Throughout medical school, Erin has devoted a large amount of her time teaching and mentoring students. She is a part of the peer tutoring program and has been a teaching assistant for many of the first-year courses. She enjoys volunteering her time to help the community, as she and her fellow medical students formed the New Jersey Covid-19 Student Coalition and hand-made over 10,000 face shields to distribute to healthcare facilities in New Jersey short on PPE. One of her favorite experiences has been traveling to Ghana one summer to spend two weeks setting up clinics and distributing medications and supplies to those who needed it. She has held several leadership roles, including Treasurer of the Emergency Medicine club, an Executive Board member for LEAD Mentors (a student-run peer mentoring program) and a second year representative for the International Federations of Medical Students Association.

Erin plans to become an emergency medicine physician, having matched at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. She looks forward to continuing her love for teaching and mentoring students and hopes to acquire a strong knowledge foundation so that she may teach other residents in the future. Outside of medicine, Erin enjoys spending time with her family and friends, watching sports and traveling.



Ioannis Serris

**FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
PHARMACY, CLASS OF 2021**



Ioannis Serris was born in Chios, a small island in Greece, and moved to the United States with his family when he was 2 years old. He completed a bachelor's in biochemistry at Stony Brook University with plans to pursue a career in the healthcare field. He was inspired by the impact clinical pharmacists had on patient care through their knowledge of medications and disease states. As a result, he decided to study pharmacy at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) School of Pharmacy.

Along with his PharmD, Ioannis is also pursuing a Masters of Health Science degree. At FDU, Ioannis displayed academic excellence and was inducted into the Epsilon Omicron Chapter of the Rho Chi Society. He was awarded the 2018-2019 FDU THINK award for the ability to critically think, detect, analyze and solve problems. He participated in a research project using 3D-printing technology with the goal of creating personalized medications. The results of the research were published in the AAPS PharmSciTech journal and presented at a conference hosted by Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In his fourth year, Ioannis was selected to participate in the Tenet Scholar Program at Community Medical Center in Toms River, NJ. During his five months in the program, he was involved in clinical research that compared insulin to non-insulin medications for patients with type 2 diabetes in the hospital setting. He presented the results at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Conference of 2020.

After graduation, Ioannis will be a pharmacy resident at Community Medical Center in Toms River, NJ. He developed a passion for teaching by participating in a peer mentor program at FDU, where he mentored new students who struggled with their studies. He will pursue a teaching certificate and hopes to precept pharmacy students in the future. Currently, he is volunteering his time preparing vaccines at a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Edison, New Jersey. Outside of pharmacy, Ioannis enjoys hiking, traveling and spending time with family.



Afra Guida Antoinette Trinidad

**RUTGERS ERNEST MARIO SCHOOL
OF PHARMACY, CLASS OF 2021**



Afra Trinidad was born in the archipelago nation of the Philippines, and moved with her family to Edison, NJ, at the age of eight. Having been born and briefly raised in the country known as the largest exporter of nurses worldwide, she has long fostered an appreciation for health and medicine. However, it was the harsh realization of the substandard state of healthcare in her native country that solidified her decision to go into medicine. She found the passion for serving others, and it fueled her commitment to finding ways to identify and address the needs of underserved communities.

With that mission in mind, she attended Rutgers University and sought out ways to contribute to the New Brunswick community through volunteering as a student pharmacist at the Promise Clinic, a student-run clinic for uninsured patrons of the city. She also participated in the Bridging the Gaps Program at Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen, in which she took part in a diabetes education program and promoted urban gardening. She has conducted research into the adverse events of hydroxychloroquine and into Bayesian predictive software. In her spare time, she volunteered at the Children's Specialized Hospital as well as tutored students on the autism spectrum at Rutgers University.

Afra currently attends the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, and is set to graduate with a Doctorate of Pharmacy in May 2021. Upon graduating, Afra will attend Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS) and has plans to continue working as a pharmacist while pursuing her degree. In the future, she plans to use both degrees to advocate for better medication reconciliation programs, antimicrobial stewardship and interprofessional collaboration. Her current specialties of interest are emergency medicine, critical care medicine and cardiology.

Outside of medicine, Afra is glad to cultivate her passionate interest in personal health, fitness and nutrition. She especially enjoys weightlifting, kickboxing and functional fitness. She hopes to augment her future practice by obtaining a certification in personal training, so she can equip her patients with additional resources in maintaining wellness.



Britney Wilson

**RUTGERS NEW JERSEY MEDICAL
SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2022**



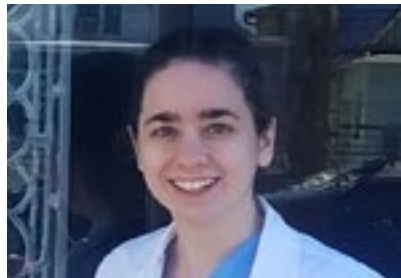
Britney N. Wilson is a Newark, NJ native. In the seventh grade, her guidance counselor recommended her to the New Jersey Scholars, Educators, Excellence, Dedication (NJ SEEDS) program because of her strong academic record. The NJ SEEDS program prepares motivated, high-achieving, low-income students for admission to private schools and colleges across the country. She is incredibly fortunate to have had such devoted mentors. She graduated from Barnard College cum laude with a major in environmental science and a minor in Africana studies. She was selected as a commencement speaker where she shared the stage with former President Barack Obama.

Since matriculating at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Britney has been committed to giving back to the community around her. She has been awarded the Weiss-Lambert Alpha Omega Alpha Research Contribution Award, a Genentech–National Medical Fellowships (NMF) Diversity Innovation Award and was inducted into the Junior AOA. She served as a Collaborative Approach to Learning Medicine (CALM) peer mentoring leader, Student National Medical Association (SNMA) E-board member, Fairmont House and Apostle’s House Clinic volunteer, and is also the Vice President of Alpha Omega Alpha, Beta Chapter. One of her greatest accomplishments was founding the New Jersey Medical School SNMA Minority Mentoring Program, a program that strives to pair incoming first year underrepresented minorities with upperclassmen who also identify as underrepresented minorities.

Outside of volunteering and achieving academic excellence, she is an avid researcher. She is completing a research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center with the Dermatology Service. She has a strong interest in the dermatologic adverse effects (dAE) that occur because of chemotherapy and radiation therapy. She is especially interested in the manifestation of these dAE in historically underrepresented minority populations.

Her ultimate career aspirations include returning to NJMS as an academic dermatologist, rebuilding the dermatology residency program and serving as a Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. In her free time, she loves cooking, running and hosting playdates with her nieces and nephews.

2020 EJI Scholarship Recipients



Laura Alban, PA-C

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM, CLASS OF 2020



Molly deButts

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM, CLASS OF 2021



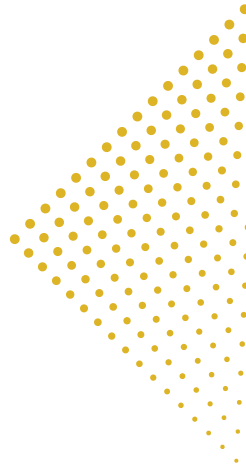
Christian DiLiberto, DO

ROWAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, CLASS OF 2020



Bassel Fattal

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON SCHOOL OF PHARMACY & HEALTH SCIENCES, CLASS OF 2021





Brittany Martinez, MD

RUTGERS ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON MEDICAL SCHOOL,
CLASS OF 2020



Meaghan McCormick, DMD

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE, CLASS OF 2020



Daniella Olan, PharmD

RUTGERS ERNEST MARIO SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, CLASS OF 2020



Melissa Olsakowski, MD

COOPER MEDICAL SCHOOL OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY,
CLASS OF 2020



Nicole Silva, MD

RUTGERS NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2020

Past Excellence in Medicine Scholarship Recipients

2010

Robert "Paul" Bonitz, MD
Natalie Hyppolite, DO
Noreen Kelly, MD

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

2011

Cara Bergamo, MD
John Castronova, DMD
Amanda Ganza, MD
Farhad Modarai, DO
Heather Neidle, PA-C
Shurika Perry, PA-C

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences
Rutgers School of Health Professions

2012

Magdala Chery, DO
Ivan G. Georgiev, DMD
James Hanas, PA-C
Oren Johnson, MD
Neil Kaushal, MD
Arveny Negron, PA-C

Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Rutgers School of Health Professions
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences

2013

Andrew Butler, MD
Michelle Diaz, PA-C, RD
Raymond J. Malapero, III MD, MPH
Jacqueline Park, MD
Allison Striano, DMD
Kirsten Tandberg, PA-C
Regina Yu, DO

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Rutgers School of Health Professions
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

2014

Sarah Armenia, PA-C	Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences
Christine Chen, DO	Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Matthew Chase, MD	Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Andrea Lewis, PA-C	Rutgers School of Health Professions
Leila Mady, MD, PhD, MPH	Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Sandra Pena, MD	Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Melissa Shah, DMD	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

2015

John Alexander, PA-C	Rutgers School of Health Professions
Steve Bialick, DO	Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Erin Conway, MD	Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Kalvin Foo, MD	Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Ashley Silakoski, MD	Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Blair Sittmann, DMD	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Emily Weinick, PA-C	Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences

2016

Natalya Andriyanycheva, PA-C	Rutgers School of Health Professions
Ryan Miller, MD	Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Ronak Mistry, DO	Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Rachel Morales Fan, MD	Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Richard Steinwandtner, PA-C	Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences
Melissa Villars, MD	Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Nicole Viola, DMD	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine



2017

Michael Cacoilo, MD

Kathryn Eckert, DO

Devin Walford Godwin, PA-C

Sydney Hyder, MD

Timothy Lopez, PA-C

Mark McShane, MD

Mary Thompson, DMD

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Rutgers School of Health Professions

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

2018

Tara Beck, DO

Kimberly Choi, DMD

Solimar Colon, PA-C

William Davis, MD

Sheila De Young, DO

Karl Hoegler, MD

Breanna Mesa, PA-C

Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

Rutgers School of Health Professions

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences

2019

Fernando Arias, MD

Jodie Kunkel, PA-C

Nicole Caltabiano, DO

Christina McArdle, DM

Morit Segui, MD

A. Michael Luciani, MD

Robert Vagueiro, PA-C

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Rutgers School of Health Professions

Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences

Where Are They Now?

FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Robert Paul Bonitz, MD	Urology Associates, Shrewsbury, NJ, & Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank, NJ
Natalie Hyppolite, DO	Osteopathic manipulative medicine specialist, VCOM Sports & Osteopathic Medicine, Blacksburg, VA
Noreen P. Kelly, MD	Cardiologist, Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute, Charlotte, NC
Cara Bergamo, MD	Emergency medicine physician, Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego, CA
John Castronova, DMD	Dentist at Diamond Braces, Clifton, NJ
Amanda Ganza, MD	OB/GYN at OBGYN Associates of North Jersey
Farhad Modarai, DO	Senior Medical Director of Value Based Care, Strive Health, Denver, CO
Heather Neidle, PA-C	Physician assistant, Emergency Medical Associates, Monmouth Medical Center, NJ
Shurika Perry, PA-C	Urology physician assistant, Willmington VA Medical Center, Willmington, DE
Magdala Chery, DO	Founding Member of Premier Provider Network, Health in Her HUE, New York, NY, and Morgan Commonwealth Fund Fellow in Minority Health Policy, Harvard Medical School
Ivan Georgiev, DMD	Oral and maxillofacial surgeon, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Paterson, NJ
James Hanas, PA-C	Physician assistant, New Haven, CT
Oren Johnson, MD	Attending radiologist, Radiology and Imaging at Baystate Health, Springfield, MA, and Assistant Professor of Radiology, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA
Neil Kaushal, MD	Orthopaedic surgeon, Rutgers North Jersey Orthopedic Institute, and Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Arveny Negron, PA-C	Physican assistant, Brandon Area Primary Care, PA, Brandon, FL
Andrew Butler, MD	Pediatric critical care physician, St. Christopher's Pediatric Associates Critical Care, Philadelphia, PA
Michelle Diaz, PA-C, RD	Surgical physician assistant, Surgical Specialists of North Jersey, Teaneck, NJ
Raymond Malapero, MD, MPH	Anesthesiologist, Rutgers Health/University Hospital, Newark, NJ

Where Are They Now?

Jacqueline Park, MD	Hospitalist, SUNY Stony Brook Hospital, Stony Brook, NY
Allison Striano Sceppaguercio, DMD	Dentist, Robert J. Martino, DDS, Clark, NJ
Kirsten (Tandberg) Ruhl, PA-C	Family medicine physician assistant for Anthony Pastena, DO, at Summit Health
Regina Yu, DO	Pediatric critical care, CHOC Specialists, Orange, CA
Sarah Armenia, PA-C	General surgery resident, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Matthew Chase, MD	Hospitalist, Kaiser Permanente, HI
Andrea Lewis, PA-C	Physician assistant, Wake Forest Baptist Health, Winston-Salem, NC
Leila Mady, MD, PhD, MPH	Clinical Fellow, Penn Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, and Associate Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, Philadelphia, PA
Sandra Pena, MD	Resident, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Melissa Shah, DMD	General dentist, Aspen Dental, Opelika, AL
John Alexander, PA-C	Physician assistant, Meritus Health, Hagerstown, MD
Steve Bialick, DO	Internal medicine physician, Penn Medicine Clinical Care Associates, University of Pennsylvania Health System
Erin Conway, MD	OB/GYN, Riverview Women's Health, Red Bank, NJ
Kalvin Foo, MD	Psychiatrist, Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Ashley Silakoski, MD	General surgeon, Philadelphia, PA
Blair Sittmann, DMD	Orthodontist, Newton-Sparta Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics, Newton, NJ
Emily Weinick, PA-C	Physician assistant, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Natalya Andriyanycheva, PA-C	Physician assistant, Capital Health System, Trenton, NJ
Ryan Miller, MD	Radiation Oncologist, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Ronak Mistry, DO	Chief resident and hospitalist, Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System
Rachel Morales Fan, MD, MS	Family medicine physician, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, Columbia, PA
Richard Steinwandtner, PA-C	Physician assistant, Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ

Where Are They Now?

Melissa Villars, MD, MPH	Emergency medicine resident, Mount Sinai Hospital, NY
Kathryn Eckert, DO	General surgery resident, RowanSOM, Stratford, NJ
Sydney Hyder, MD	Pulmonary/critical care fellow, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL
Timothy Lopez, PA-C	General surgery physician assistant, Hackensack Meridian Health, Oradell, NJ
Michael Cacoilo, MD	Family medicine physician, Church Health, Memphis, TN
Devin Walford Godwin, PA-C	Physician assistant, Greenville, South Carolina
Mark McShane, MD	Pediatric resident, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Mary (Thompson) Galley, DMD	Associate dentist, Dental Arts of Wyomissing/Bernville, PA
Karl Hoegler, MD	Dermatology resident, University of Maryland
Tara Beck, DO	Pediatric resident, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Solimar Colon, PA-C	Internal medicine physician assistant, Summit Health, Fair Lawn, NJ
William Davis, MD	Surgical resident, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
Sheila De Young, DO	Internal medicine resident, Pennsylvania Hospital
Breanna Mesa, PA-C	Physician assistant, Vanguard Medical Group, Jersey City, NJ
Fernando Arias, MD	General surgery resident, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital
Jodie Kunkel, PA-C	Physician assistant, Vanguard Medical Group, Lincoln Park, NJ
Nicole Caltabiano, DO	Emergency medicine resident, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Christina McArdle, DMD	Associate dentist, Spring Lake Dental Arts, Spring Lake, NJ
Morit Segui, MD	OB/GYN resident, Montefiore Medical Center
A. Michael Luciani, MD	Orthopaedic resident, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
Robert Vagueiro, PA-C	Surgery and bariatric surgery physician assistant, Summit Health

In Memoriam



Steve Kalafer

Steve Kalafer, 2018 recipient of the Peter W. Rodino, Jr. Citizen's Award®, died on April 21, 2021, at age 71. He was a distinguished businessman who owned Flemington Car & Truck County and the Somerset Patriots baseball team. Mr. Kalafer was a member of RWJBarnabas Health's Board of Trustees and Chairman Emeritus of the Somerset Health Care Foundation's Board of Trustees. He gave his time to the non-profit Actors Fund, which gives emergency services to those in the entertainment industry. He was also a documentary film producer, for which he earned several Oscar nominations. Mr. Kalafer was known for his generosity and philanthropy. He was honored with numerous community awards and was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2020.



Faith W. Rice

Faith W. Rice received the 2014 Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award on behalf of the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome & Associated Disorders. Ms. Rice passed away on March 22, 2021, at age 77. She became a Tourette Syndrome advocate when her son Kim began exhibiting signs of the disorder as a child. It took 10 years to get a diagnosis but even with that information she found that there were no resources for her son – few knowledgeable doctors, no family support and no network. Leaving her full-time job at IBM, she set out to bring about change for her son, and for others facing a TS diagnosis. Her journey to create quality programming for families living with TS and to bring awareness to the disorder led to the state of New Jersey funding her vision and, in 2004, establishing NJCTS – the nation's first Center of Excellence for Tourette Syndrome. Under Faith's leadership, NJCTS trained tens of thousands of educators and medical professionals about Tourette Syndrome and its common associated disorders. She created a Youth Advocate program so children and teens with TS could learn how to advocate for themselves and others. In partnership with Rutgers, she created the NJCTS Tourette Syndrome Clinic and, perhaps her greatest legacy, the NJCTS Cell & DNA Sharing Repository, which has propelled TS research forward in remarkable ways.



Joseph A. Riggs, MD

Dr. Joseph A. Riggs, 1994 recipient of the Edward J. III Physician's Award®, died on November 7, 2019, at age 85. Dr. Riggs considered it his ultimate privilege to care for his patients as an obstetrician/ gynecologist at Our Lady of Lourdes, West Jersey/ Virtua and Cooper Hospitals for nearly 50 years. As an OB/GYN, his patients' health and well-being were always on his mind. When teaching young medical residents, he often reminded them of his favorite quote, "people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Dr. Riggs was elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees, served as the President of the Camden County Medical Society, and was President of the Medical Society of New Jersey. He was appointed by three different New Jersey Governors as a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners.

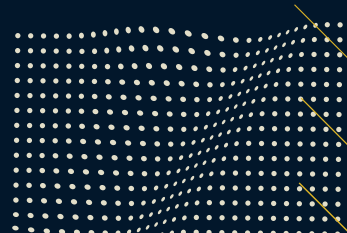
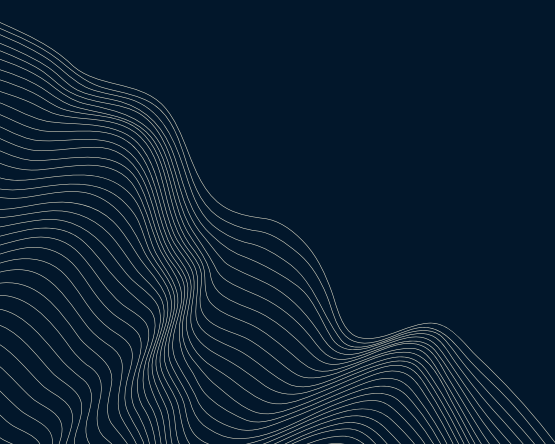
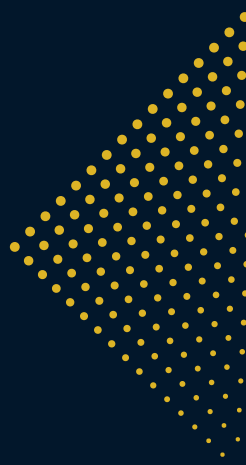


Alan Sagner

Alan Sagner, 1981 recipient of the Peter W. Rodino, Jr. Citizen's Award®, passed away on January 3, 2018, at the age of 97. He was a politician, businessman and philanthropist who served as New Jersey Commissioner of Transportation, as Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and as Chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Mr. Sagner became active in the community as President of the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Board of Trustees and Vice President of Health and Hospitals Council of Metropolitan New Jersey.



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