

[SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu](mailto:SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu)

## **ZSOM Alumni Newsletter**

**November 2024**

Dear Dhanya,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and navigating the changing seasons alongside the swirling political climate with grace and resilience. As we juggle the demands of academic and professional life, it's so important to carve out some time for self-care and prioritizing your mental well-being. I hope you are able to look forward to the holiday season and can take some time for yourself.

And speaking of the holidays, right around the corner is our alumni holiday party on **December 4th at Hill Country NYC from 6:30 - 8:30 pm!** We hope to see you there, see below to RSVP and I'll be sending out reminders as it gets closer.

And just last month, we hosted our fourteenth (!) White Coat ceremony for the class of 2028, which was a celebratory time for our incoming medical students. We also had our alumni class reunion for 2018 and 2019, and it was great to see our alumni reconnect with their classmates and faculty. See below for some photos!

Please keep those updates coming in, and share your news - you can always email me at [SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu](mailto:SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu), or use the [online form](#) to drop a quick line. I hope to hear from you soon!

All the best,

Anne Dalgish Koestner  
Director of Development and Alumni Affairs

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### **Alumni News:**

#### ***Reunion for the Classes of 2018 and 2019***

In October we had the pleasure of hosting our alumni reunion for the classes of 2018 and 2019. It was great to see our amazing alumni and be able to spend some quality time catching up with one another! Thank you to those who attended, we hoped you enjoyed your reunion with your fellow classmates! See below for some awesome recaps of the night.



## ***Save the Date - Alumni Holiday Party in NYC!***

As the holiday season approaches, we are happy to announce our alumni holiday party happening on **December 4th**, from **6:30 pm - 8:30 pm** at **Hill Country NYC**. Please join us for an evening of celebration and a fun time to reconnect! See below for details and to [RSVP](#).

Hope you can attend the

# ZSOM Alumni *Holiday Party*

**December 4th, 2024**  
**6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**HILL COUNTRY NYC**  
30 West 26th Street (between  
5th and 6th Avenues), NYC  
RSVP to [SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu](mailto:SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu)

 DONALD AND BARBARA  
ZUCKER SCHOOL of MEDICINE  
AT HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL

# Zucker SOM Alumni Holiday Party

## LOCATION

30 W 26 Street, New York, NY 10010

## DATE AND TIME

12/04/24 6:30pm - 12/04/24 8:30pm US/Eastern

Join us for a fun night in celebrating the holiday season and reconnecting with your fellow alumni

I'll Be There!

Maybe

I Can't Make It

## [White Coats, Bright Futures - Alumni Spotlight!](#)

[See below for our third installment, and see past profiles here!](#)



**White Coats,  
Bright Futures:**

**Kevin Smith, MD and  
Deepa Ramadurai, MD**  
*Class of 2016*

*"Our advice to current ZSOM students is...immerse yourself completely in the experiences and opportunities given to you as a medical student. Focus on your personal growth just as much as your professional growth as you figure out your identity as a future physician!"*

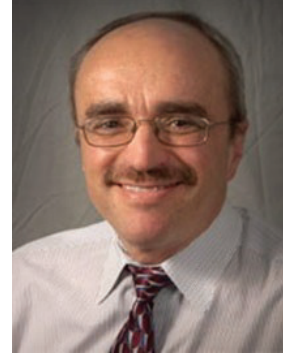


## [Alumni Spotlight!](#)

This new social media initiative highlights accomplishments and stories about our alumni on our website, social media, and internal publications.

If you are interested in being profiled, please use [this link](#) to answer a few short questions! We'd love to showcase what our alumni are up to!

**Shh! Help Us Surprise Dr. Farina for His Retirement!**



Dr. Gino Farina's last day at the Zucker School of Medicine and Northwell Health will be Monday, December 23, 2024. To show our appreciation for the support and dedication he has given to the Zucker School of Medicine, we will be creating a book for Dr. Farina filled with notes and photos of him throughout his time here. We would love to have you as alumni contribute memories, messages, or photos with Dr. Farina as part of this project!

**Please keep this present a secret - we will be surprising Dr. Farina with it on his last day of work.**

Click [here](#) to add a photo and/or message to the book!

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## Alumni Classnotes:

### Class of 2016:

- Linzee Mabrey has received a K23 mentored patient-oriented research career development award through the NIH-NHLBI for \$932,040 for 5 years for her project: "Targeting CD14: A Novel Therapeutic Approach for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome" at the University of Washington.
- Rachel Pruitt was welcomed back to Northwell as a new addition to the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Cohens Children's Medical Center.

### Class of 2017:

- Arline Edmond has been promoted to Associate Residency Program Director for PM&R at Rutgers NJMS/Kessler Institute of Rehabilitation.
- Andrea Tufano-Sugarman has a new position as attending and assistant professor at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, specializing in gynecologic medical oncology.

### Class of 2018:

- Michael Wysota has completed his fellowship in hematology/oncology at Montefiore and has accepted his position at Jefferson University Hospital in the hematology/oncology department.

### Class of 2019:

- Alexis Tchaconas and April Slamowitz, along with Tahyna Hernandez (2018) participated in the recent ZSOM All Hands meeting by offering their alumni perspectives on their experiences learning and now teaching at the medical school!



### **Class of 2020:**

- Congratulations to Tim Walden on his wedding, all the best wishes to you both on this new chapter in your lives!



### **Class of 2021:**

- Navin Pathak has finished his internal medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic and is now in fellowship in clinical informatics at UW Health in Madison, WI.

### **Class of 2023:**

- Congratulations to Christina Cotte on her lovely wedding ceremony, wishing all great things on this new journey!



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## Recent School News:

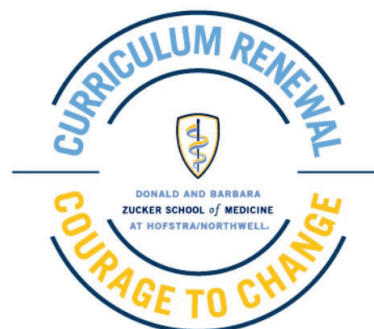
- The Zucker School of Medicine has been proudly listed amongst the top medical schools nationwide in research and diversity according to the *U.S. News & World Report 2024* rankings. This year, we are ranked in Tier 1 for research (among 16 schools). And for the fourth year, we have been ranked as one of the most diverse medical schools in the country (tied for 4th in New York State). You can read more on the coverage [here](#).



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## Curriculum Renewal Update

Welcome back to the 2024-25 academic year! Curriculum Renewal continues to evolve, and we know that many of you have questions about the next phase of the process. We want to share some updates with you and a few of the most frequently asked questions we've received.



### Curriculum Renewal FAQs...

#### **Q: *Is the macrostructure moving forward?***

A: Over the summer, feedback was synthesized with the goal of presenting an updated draft to our community this fall. During synthesis, the dean asked us to take a deeper look into a few different areas before continuing to iterate on the draft. As we continue to dive into some areas, we are holding off on making any edits to ensure we are making changes that will sustain us for the future.

#### **Q: *What areas will be the focus of the deep dive?***

A: AI and its impact on both learning and the patient experience will continue to be explored. See the dean's thoughts on AI in the featured article below, or [click here](#).

We will also take a deep dive into students' clinical experiences and how we can best utilize the outstanding clinical care and innovations within Northwell Health to educate our students. We will also be looking at reducing the cognitive load of our curriculum.

**Q: *Are P/F clerkships still being considered?***

A: After synthesizing feedback from the ZSOM community, the refreshed MS3 curriculum will evolve towards a criterion-based grading system in which everyone who meets the criteria will earn a grade. The school will also retain H/HP/P/F and work to streamline the MS3 assessment system.

**Q: *What about the LCME timeline?***

The LCME timeline has been relieved as we do not yet need to present any ideas for approval.

**Q: *Will there be an opportunity for feedback?***

A: Yes, any updates will be shared with the community as they become available.

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### Deep Thinking About AI: the Dean's Perspective

Dean David Battinelli was recently interviewed about artificial Intelligence's impact on medical education and healthcare, please click [here](#) to read more about his perspective.

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### Student News:

- **We were excited to host our White Coat Ceremony for the class of 2028** to celebrate a milestone and significant moment in their medical journey and professional career. The white coat ceremony was held at Long Island Marriott Grand Ballroom, and it was a joyous time filled with celebratory smiles and cheers. The students were surrounded by families, friends, and faculty who witnessed their transformative step from medical students to healthcare professionals. We are very excited to see their amazing journey ahead! Click the link [here](#) to read more about the fourteenth White Coat ceremony we hosted for the Class of 2028.



The Zucker School of Medicine  
Class of 2028

- First-year medical students at ZSOM participated in the annual Mass Casualty Incident Training at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy in late September at Old Bethpage, NY. This training was significant because it symbolized a core part of the curriculum for Zucker School of Medicine students, as they tested their emergency response skills by practicing in simulated disaster scenarios. Click [here](#) to read more or watch the highlight video [here](#).



- We are also thrilled to report that the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell Health announced the newly endowed Deborah and Lawrence Smith Dean's chair, funded by a \$3 million gift from **Broadridge Financial Solutions**. This news is transformative for our students as the endowment will support student scholarships, enabling more students to pursue their academic and professional goals with financial security. Click [here](#) to read more on the coverage.



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## Faculty News:

- Alice Fornani, EdD, FAMEE, HEC-C, RD, associate dean for Educational Skills and Development at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell was invited by the Faculty Factory Podcast to dive into "micro" initiatives as a teaching method. Her insight focuses on delivering learning content into short "bite-sized" pieces as a way to streamline education and mentor without a hassle on time commitments. You can read more on the coverage [here](#).
- Dr. Karen Friedman, the Lawrence Scherr MD Endowed Professor of Medicine at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell was recognized for her superb contributions to medical education by the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine. She has been named a 2025 Alliance Awards Recipient for her outstanding achievements. You can read more on the coverage [here](#).
- Dr. Li Ma, MD, PhD - was the winner of the faculty Dean's Value in Action Award, which reflect a faculty member who embodies our Zucker School of Medicine values and demonstrates an outstanding commitment to achieving our mission. You can read more on Dr. Li Ma's outstanding accomplishment [here](#).
- Nagashree Seetharamu, MD, MBBS, professor of Medicine at the Donald



and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell was very instrumental in her work published in an article by OncLive which played a significant role in focusing on the challenges many pathologists face in determining the cancer stage based on biopsy locations. You can read more on the coverage [here](#).

- Northwell has started a new Northwell Alumni Network, connecting former employees with each other and with the health system. If you are interested in joining, you will get access to job opportunities, programs, communications, and more. You can click [here](#) to sign up or [contact me](#) with any questions you may have.
- Northwell's Office of Physician Recruitment is also available to you with career opportunities - you can learn more at their website here or reach out to them directly [here](#).

[Click here for the Alumni website](#)

[Update contact info or send us news here](#)

What would you like to hear more about? Please email me at [SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu](mailto:SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu) with updates, suggestions, and requests, and don't forget to connect with us through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our LinkedIn group!



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AT HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL®

*As a community member of the Zucker School of Medicine, you should **not unsubscribe** from this distribution list; doing so will remove you from all ZSOM communications, including announcements, event invitations, notices and more from the School of Medicine.*

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