

SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu

ZSOM Alumni Newsletter

January 2025

Dear Dhanya,

I hope this newsletter finds you well, and that you had some time to relax and rejuvenate over the holidays. We have much to look forward to in the upcoming months, and we hope you will stay connected with the ZSOM community to embrace it all.

And of course, the ZSOM community would like to extend our sincere thoughts to all alums who are in the vicinity of the devastating California wildfires. We are thinking of you all and hope you are managing in this time of uncertainty.

We have Match Day approaching right around the corner on March 21, one of the most exciting milestones for our students' medical journeys. We also have a few ways for you to get involved with our school community - if you are interested in serving on the medical student Gold Humanism Honor Society selection committee and meet the qualifications, please see the information below on how to apply to be part of the committee. In addition, we are excited to announce that we will be establishing our first Alumni Awards for our medical school alums, to be awarded at our Alumni Weekend in the fall of 2025. Please see below for the nomination form and more details, and we hope you may consider recognizing a fellow alum or even yourself.

Please keep those updates coming in and share your news - you can always email me at 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

Alumni News:

Alumni Holiday Party in NYC Recap

In December, we ended the year with one last celebration at our alumni holiday party in NYC. An amazing time was had by all, as we enjoyed some holiday cheer and rang in the season with our amazing alumni! Thank you to those who attended, we hope you all had a great end to the year! See below for some recaps of the

night.



Zucker School of Medicine's Career Night

In early January, ZSOM held two Career Nights where we welcomed back some of our amazing alumni to share their wisdom and advice with the next generation of medical professionals. We're always happy to see the impact that mentorship can have on current students. Thank you to all the alumni who supported Career Night at ZSOM, the difference you make is remarkable (not all pictured below - thanks to everyone who participated!!)



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!

[See past profiles here!](#)

ZSOM Gold Humanism Honor Society Selection Committee this Spring

The ZSOM Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) chapter advisors, Drs. Taranjeet Ahuja and Carmen Rodriguez, are in search of 2 alumni who have been inducted into GHHS either as a student, resident or attending physician to serve on the medical student GHHS selection committee. The time commitment will be two meetings on ZOOM, **April 16th** and **April 23rd**, from **2-3:30** on **both dates**. You will receive information on the nominees prior to the meeting, which may take up to an hour max to review. They would like to request at least 2 alumni to join the team.

Please email Dr. Ahuja at Taranjeet.Ahuja@hofstra.edu if interested.

New Initiative: Zoom Chats with Alumni

The Zucker School of Medicine will be launching a new initiative called "Zoom Chats with Alumni" where we call on you, our amazing alumni to take part in a series of Zoom sessions that foster a place for your mentorship and guidance for current students here at the ZSOM community. These sessions will occur once a month, the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Each month will have a theme such as: how to succeed in the clinical environment, how to study and balance clinical work, career advising, financial planning/decisions, etc. You can sign up for as many or as few months as you wish and will not require any "pre-work" for you, just the commitment to come and speak openly.

If you are interested in joining this new initiative or would like to learn more, please reach out to Jodi Langsfeld at Jodi.M.Langsfeld@hofstra.edu

Zucker School of Medicine Alumni Awards!

We are excited to announce the inaugural Zucker School of Medicine Alumni Awards! These awards have been created to acknowledge and highlight our extraordinary alumni who demonstrate service, leadership and achievement, and excellence in research at the Zucker SOM and/or within their/your new community.

We hope to highlight those who have achieved distinction through leadership, service and excellence.

We call on you to submit your nomination for yourself or for your fellow alumni who you believe best fits the category of nominations. We plan to celebrate these Alumni Awards at our Alumni Weekend this fall, on Saturday, October 11 (save the date to follow)! Please click the QR code below to access the form or click [here](#) and **submit by May 2nd, 2025.**

Learn more about the new
Zucker School of Medicine
ALUMNI AWARDS
and submit your nomination!



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Alumni Classnotes:

Class of 2016:

- Rachel Pruitt and Timothy White (2017) recently spoke to our Zucker SOM Joint Board to share their stories as alumni who are now employed physicians at Northwell.

Class of 2017:

- Muhammad Mutawakkil was featured on the WVON-AM Chicago radio program "Northwestern Medicine." To listen to his story, click [here](#), and tune into the time frame of 00.08.12

Class of 2018:

- Ryan Bedi is finishing his last year of cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at UCLA and will be completing it in July.
- Rocio Crabb completed a fellowship in Sports & Arthroscopy at Hoag Orthopedic Institute and is now working at Kaiser in Orange County. Be sure to read her recent article published in *Seminars in Arthroplasty: JSES* [here](#) and check out her technique video published on VuMedi [here](#) as well.
- Benson Ku recently published an article in *JAMA Network Open* on the aspects of area deprivation index in relation to hippocampal volume among children, you can read more [here](#).
- Kurt Lehner will be a pediatric neurosurgery fellow at Johns Hopkins next year. He also recently published an article in the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* on clinical and socioeconomic predictors of shunt malfunction in the pediatric emergency department, you can read the article [here](#).

Class of 2019:

- Brian Emmert accepted an attending position which will begin in August, as Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in the Division of Epilepsy.
- Brittany Guttadauria has accepted a position as a Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow at Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania (CHOP).
- Daniel Hart recently presented a Grand Rounds talk on the topic of Pheochromocytoma and Paraganglioma to the Northwell Endocrinology Service Line from the perspective of an anesthesiologist. It gave a unique

perspective of medical challenging patients in the peri-operative period to help minimize the risk of intra-operative and post-operative complications.

Class of 2022:

- William Liakos recently published an article in *Clinical and Experimental Dermatology* on cutaneous ulcers following high-dose prednisone, you can read more [here](#).
- Amitha Kapyur recently published an article in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* on a case of metabolic alkalosis, hyponatremia, and hypokalemia secondary to dietary chloride deficiency syndrome in a J Tube-dependent patient, you can read more [here](#).

Class of 2023:

- Danielle Howell's publication "Case-Based Specialty Training for Medical Students to Elicit Social Determinants of Health" was one of the top 10 most downloaded *MedEdPORTAL* publications in 2024. You can read more [here](#).
- Congratulations to Fatimah Mozawalla on her beautiful wedding! All the best wishes to you both on this new journey! See below for some amazing photos!



Recent School News:

- Dr. David L. Battinelli, the Deborah and Lawrence Smith Dean of the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and executive vice president and physician-in-chief of Northwell Health, has been named to Becker's Hospital Review list of hospital and health system chief medical officers to know in 2025. You can read more on the coverage [here](#).



- Looking back at 2024, we are proud to say the Zucker School of Medicine celebrated numerous achievements and milestones by our students, faculty, and ZSOM community. As we reflect on these amazing accomplishments in 2024, we are eager to make 2025 even better! Be sure to check out our 2024 highlights [here](#).

2024 HIGHLIGHTS		DONALD AND BARBARA ZUCKER SCHOOL of MEDICINE AT HORSTRA/NORTHWELL			
JANUARY	Cutting-Edge Technologies Highlighted at Inaugural Medical Innovation Symposium		JULY	Zucker School of Medicine Ranked Among Top Schools for Research and Diversity by U.S. News and World Report	
FEBRUARY	Zucker School of Medicine Incorporates Surgical Skills and Robotic Surgery Training into Undergraduate Curriculum		AUGUST	Zucker School of Medicine Kicks Off Orientation for the Class of 2028	
MARCH	Zucker School of Medicine Students Set to Embark on Residency Programs Nationwide After Celebrating Tenth Annual Match Day		SEPTEMBER	First-Year Medical Students Spring Into Action, Putting Their Emergency Skills to the Test at Annual Mass Casualty Incident Day	
APRIL	Young Minds Dive into Medicine: A Day of Discovery at Zucker School of Medicine		OCTOBER	Zucker School of Medicine Celebrates Fourteenth White Coat Ceremony	
MAY	Zucker School of Medicine's Class of 2024 Triumphs Over Pandemic Challenges: 101 New Physicians and Scientists Awarded Degrees - AAMC President and CEO Dr. David J. Skorton Delivers Keynote		NOVEMBER	Summer Research Discoveries Showcased at Thirteenth Annual Medical Student Research Week	
JUNE	From Special Ops to Future Docs: Medical School Assists Veterans Transitioning to Medical Careers		DECEMBER	Zucker School of Medicine Adopts a Community For the 2024 Holiday Season	

Student News:

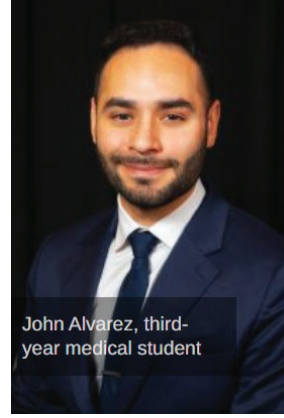
- Sarah Abramowitz, BA, a medical student here at ZSOM and a Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research fellow, published her research focusing on the inconsistencies of polygenic risk scores (PRSs) in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) on November 16, 2024. She presented her findings at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions in Chicago, where she was the only student finalist in the Genomic and Precision Medicine Early Career Investigator Competition. Read more about Sarah's amazing accomplishment [here](#).



- First year medical student, Jordan Genece, and third year medical student, John Alvarez, are recipients of the AMSNY Diversity in Medicine Scholarship. This one-year \$45,000 award aims to relieve financial barriers one may experience upon attending medical school. This scholarship aims to develop a diverse physician workplace who commit to practicing in underserved areas in New York State upon completion of their medical education. This is a great accomplishment and well-deserved achievement from our students, read [here](#) for more details.



Jordan Genece, first-year medical student



John Alvarez, third-year medical student

- Rahul Ramanathan, a second-year medical student, co-authored a groundbreaking research paper with David Rooney, associate dean and professor of engineering, and Dean Sina Rabbany from the Fred De Matteis School of Engineering and Applied Science, Hofstra University. The research paper delves into the dynamics of blood flow through microvascular networks. For more coverage on this story, click [here](#).

Faculty News:

- The Zucker School of Medicine held its ninth annual Diversity Night in mid-November! Nearly 150 students, faculty, staff, and their guests participated in the festivities to celebrate ZSOM's commitment to diversity and inclusion, while embracing the various backgrounds and cultures that are embedded in the ZSOM community. Read more [here!](#)
- Marie Cavuoto Petrizzo, MD, MEd, assistant dean for Medical Education and associate professor of Pediatrics and Science Education here at ZSOM has been accepted into the AAAAI Ambassador-Level Leadership Development Program. This outstanding achievement stems from the program offered by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology that commemorates professionals in allergy and immunology who demonstrate a significant commitment and dedication to leadership and a strong impact in advancing the field. You can read more on the coverage [here](#).
- Northwell marked one year of its new initiative, the 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 will also get discounted opportunities for CME and Grand Rounds once you are a member of the network. 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 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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