



ZSOM Alumni Newsletter

August 2025

Greetings!

Summer is well underway, and along with it hopefully some sunshine, new adventures, and time to recharge! We hope this message finds you well and enjoying all the simple joys that summer has to offer—whether that's a relaxing vacation, time with loved ones, or just a moment to soak in the warmth of the season.

We kicked off our summer social in July—it was an absolute blast! From the laughter and great conversations to the unforgettable rooftop views, it was truly a day filled with *warmth*, reconnection, and ZSOM community spirit. See below for some amazing photos!

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we will be hosting our inaugural Alumni Awards this year, so please **save the date** - **Saturday, October 11, from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**, to enjoy our **Alumni Weekend!** In addition to hosting our inaugural alumni awards, we will also be welcoming back all alumni, and recognizing our 2015 and 2020 graduates, so we hope to see you all there!

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:

ZSOM Summer Social

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent Summer Social in NYC! It was so great to see everyone come together, catch up, share laughs, and enjoy a sunny day filled with great energy and amazing company! Whether you were catching up with old friends or meeting someone new, it was a time filled with much joy and a beautiful reminder of the strength and warmth of our ZSOM alumni community!



Zucker School of Medicine's Pioneers: The Class of 2015 Then and Now!

Now, ten years after earning their degrees, the Class of 2015 is celebrating a decade of accomplishments, growth, and impact. The innovative curriculum that once set the school apart—centered on small class sizes, hands-on experience, and compassionate care—continues to shape leaders in medicine. Click [here](#) to take a glimpse into where some of them are today and how they reflect on their remarkable journey!



ZSOM Alumni Weekend - Save the Date!

As mentioned above, we're excited to share that we'll be hosting our inaugural Alumni Awards this year—so be sure to save the date: **Saturday, October 11, from 6:30–9:30 p.m.** as part of our **Alumni Weekend** celebration! Join us for a festive night of celebration, connection, and community as we come together to honor our alumni and the incredible bonds that make ZSOM so special!

Please RSVP by either clicking the email below or emailing me directly at **SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu**. (Guests welcome, and please email with any dietary restrictions.)

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Weekend

Celebrate with fellow alumni, the classes of 2015 and 2020, and the inaugural alumni awards!

SATURDAY 10/11/2025 AT 6:30PM

RSVP TO
SOMALUMNI@HOFSTRA.EDU

2025 White Coat Ceremony!

We're excited to share that our annual White Coat Ceremony is right around the corner and will be happening on **Friday, October 3, 2025 at 2pm!** Join us as we welcome the newest class of future physicians into the Zucker School of Medicine community—a meaningful tradition that marks the beginning of their medical journey. Please click the link [here](#) to RSVP, if you would like to attend!



Alumni Classnotes:

Class of 2018:

- Congratulations to Anjali Gidicsin Narayan and Christopher Gidicsin (Class of 2016) on welcoming their first baby!



Class of 2019:

- Brian Emmert was featured on the American Academy of Neurology's "Neurology Podcast", where he discussed his recent paper and shares valuable insights shaping the future of neurology. Click [here](#) to listen!
- Dennis Fitzgerald joins Southcoast Health Neurology caring for patients in Dartmouth. His clinical interests include behavioral neurology with a focus on neurodegenerative diseases.
- Congratulations to Stephanie Gambino and Richie Sun on welcoming their daughter!



Class of 2020:

- Ravi Patel joins the growing team over at ENT and Allergy Associates, LLP as he will start his position focusing on expanding patient access to high-quality ENT care in the NYC region.

Class of 2021:

- Zohaib Bagha recently co-authored and published an article in the *Cureus Journal of Medical Science*, exploring a Gamified Cardiometabolic Health Curriculum Utilizing a Student Response System for Internal Medicine Residents. Click [here](#) to read more!

Class of 2023:

- Patrick J. Tierney proudly received the Zimmerman Resident Educator Award from the Albany Med Neurology Department for the 2024-2025 academic year.



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!](#)

Recent School News:

Planning with Purpose: Strategic Scope

The Zucker School of Medicine has made significant strides in advancing the goals set forth in its **2019–2024 Strategic Plan**. This collaborative effort—bringing together students, faculty, staff, and alumni—is centered on identifying key priorities and setting a clear vision for the future. Click [here](#) to read more on key highlights that reflect ZSOM's ongoing pursuit of academic excellence, innovation, and an inclusive learning environment!



Farewell Wishes to Jodi Langsfeld!

You may have seen the [earlier email](#) announcing the departure of Dr. Jodi Langsfeld, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Assistant Professor, Department of Science Education, who will be moving on from the Zucker School of Medicine to

pursue a new role with The Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

During her time at ZSOM, Jodi has made a profound and lasting impact through her unwavering dedication to our students and her continued engagement with alumni beyond graduation. Her presence has been deeply valued, and she will be greatly missed.

As Jodi embarks on this next chapter, we are creating a special commemorative book in her honor. This keepsake will include messages of appreciation and photos that reflect her many contributions and memorable moments at ZSOM. We'd love for you to be part of it! You can contribute by sharing a memory, writing a note of thanks or congratulations, and uploading any photos that capture special moments with Jodi.

Please help us keep this a surprise! We'll be presenting the book to Jodi at her upcoming farewell celebration. **[Click here to add a photo/message to the book!](#)**



ZSOM HR Announcement: Student Affairs Transition

In light of Dr. Jodi Langsfeld's departure from her role as Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Assistant Professor in the Department of Science Education, the Zucker School of Medicine is implementing the following leadership transition.

Dr. Rona Woldenberg, Associate Dean for Admissions and Professor of Radiology, will serve as **Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs**. A founding member of the ZSOM leadership team and a Northwell neuroradiologist for 30 years, Dr. Woldenberg brings invaluable experience and a strong commitment to student support—making her an ideal leader during this period of transition.

In this interim capacity, Dr. Woldenberg will oversee strategic initiatives within Student Affairs and directly supervise the Student Affairs and Student Finance team leads. A search committee will convene in September to identify a permanent replacement, with the goal of finalizing the appointment by January 1. To read the official announcement, please click [here](#).



Student News:

- Orientation Week began on Monday, July 29, 2025, as we welcomed our fifteenth class of medical students! The start of this exciting journey marked a pivotal moment for the Class of 2029—a dynamic and diverse group of future physicians. Click [here](#) to read more.



- On May 28, 2025, we celebrated the newest inductees into the Gold Humanism Honor Society at the annual induction dinner. During the event, 16 medical students, 4 faculty members, and 6 residents were honored and welcomed into the prestigious Gold Humanism Honor Society. These inductees are celebrated not only for their commitment to empathetic care but also for serving as role models, mentors, and leaders within the medical community. Click [here](#) to read more.



- An article in *Medscape* recently highlighted the Zucker School of Medicine and our real-life simulations pertaining to mass casualty training. The article stresses the importance of preparation being key for medical students when exposed to the realities of the real-world. Click [here](#) to read more.

Faculty News:

- On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell proudly welcomed its newest class of medical educators into the esteemed Academy of Medical Educators (AME) during the Annual Faculty Meeting—an event that unites faculty from across Northwell Health at the Zucker School of Medicine. Click [here](#) to read more.



- A newly published Viewpoint article in JAMA Internal Medicine (June 23, 2025), co-authored by Anthony Szema, MD, clinical professor of medicine, occupational medicine, epidemiology, and prevention at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, examines the wide-ranging health impacts of the recent devastating wildfires in Los Angeles. Click [here](#) to read more.
- 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](#).

Interested in supporting the ZSOM Community and leaving a permanent impact for years to come?

We invite our alumni and members of our community to consider supporting our bricks program initiative. With your gift of **\$350**, you will have the opportunity to engrave a brick that will be installed in the walkway in the rear of the building, making your mark on the future of medical education!

For more information on how you can support the bricks program initiative, click [here](#) for our brochure or click [here](#) to make a brick purchase!



[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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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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