

## **ZSOM Alumni Newsletter**

**January 2026**

Greetings!

As we welcome the winter season, we hope this message finds you well and that you enjoyed a joyful and restful holiday season. We hope you had the opportunity to reconnect with family, friends, and loved ones, and to reflect on the moments and milestones that made the past year meaningful. As we begin a new year, we are excited for the opportunities ahead and remain grateful for the strength and continued engagement of our alumni community.

As we look back on the year, we're excited to share some of the **Zucker School of Medicine's 2025 highlights** below. These moments reflect the achievements, connections, and community that made this past year so memorable, so be sure to check it out down below!

We wrapped up the year on a high note with our **Alumni Holiday Party** at Maiella in Long Island City! With an incredible turnout, it was the perfect way to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate the season with fellow alumni in a lively and welcoming setting. We also had a fantastic evening at our **Philadelphia Alumni Night** in November, which brought together alumni for great conversation and connection. See below for pictures!

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events coming up at Zucker School of Medicine. **Match Day** is approaching on March 20, marking one of the most thrilling milestones in our students' medical journeys. We're also looking forward to our **2026 Hoops & Healers Family Day on February 7**, a special celebration of our ZSOM community where we'll cheer on the Hofstra Pride during the men's basketball game. In addition, Hofstra will be hosting some **upcoming regional events**, offering the perfect opportunity to reconnect, socialize, and engage with fellow professionals. See below for more information on all these events!

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:

### ✦ Holiday Magic in the City: Alumni Party Recap! ✦

In December, we hosted our annual Alumni Holiday party in NYC to celebrate the festivities of the season together! It was a fun evening filled with great company, plenty of laughs, and unforgettable memories. A perfect way to close out the year, and celebrate the strong community we continue to build! Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make it so special!



### ✦ Zucker SOM Alumni Night in Philadelphia! ✦

We hosted a wonderful evening of alumni socializing and networking in Philadelphia, bringing together a strong turnout of ZSOM alumni from the Philadelphia area! The gathering offered a great opportunity to connect with members of the growing local alumni community, build new relationships, and reconnect with familiar faces. See below for photos!



[Join Us at Upcoming Hofstra Regional Events!](#)



You are invited to attend Hofstra's regional events, offering a welcoming space for networking, discussion, and community engagement with professionals across the area. These gatherings offer an opportunity to network, learn, and strengthen professional connections! Click [here](#) for more information about Hofstra's January 31 regional event in South Florida and click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

Our other upcoming events include a Dallas alumni reception on February 10, a Washington, D.C., alumni dinner on February 25, a Boston alumni reception on March 4, and a Los Angeles alumni reception on March 22. For more information on these regional events, please feel free to reach out to us at [SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu](mailto:SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu)



### [Hoops and Healers: ZSOM Family Day](#)

You're invited to our **Hoops & Healers: ZSOM Family Day!** Join us on **February 7** for a fun and festive day bringing together the ZSOM community to connect, socialize, and cheer on the Hofstra Pride during the men's Winter Homecoming basketball game. This year, we have added reserved space for alumni, so we hope you can join us for a fun day of school spirit! To RSVP, please email us at [SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu](mailto:SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu), as space is limited!



### [Celebrate Excellence: AOA Visiting Professor & Induction Ceremony](#)

Join us on March 24, 2026, for the **Zucker School of Medicine Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Visiting Professor Lecture and Induction Ceremony**, celebrating the achievements of our student, resident, and faculty honorees. The evening will feature a lecture by Dr. Robert L. Johnson, the induction ceremony, and a cocktail

reception at the University Club. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

## **ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA VISITING PROFESSOR AND INDUCTION CEREMONY INVITATION MARCH 24, 2026, 5PM**

You are cordially invited to attend the Zucker School of Medicine AOA Visiting Professor and Induction Ceremony for the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Nu Chapter, on March 24, 2026 at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Specific locations details are to be announced!

Tickets for the cocktail reception are \$60 and may be purchased by following this link:  
[Tickets to AOA Event](#)

Schedule for the evening to take place at the University Club on Tuesday, March 24, 2026:

- 5:00-5:45 p.m. Lecture from Visiting Professor, Dr. Johnson
- 5:45-6:00 p.m. Induction ceremony for this year's student, resident, and faculty inductees
- 6:00-7:15 p.m. Cocktail reception

We look forward to celebrating excellence in scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service with our AOA inductees and community members.



This year's Visiting Professor is Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP. He is the Sharon and Joseph L. Muscarelle Endowed Dean, Professor of Pediatrics, and Director of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. His clinical expertise and research focus on adolescent physical and mental health, adolescent HIV, adolescent violence, adolescent sexuality, health equity, and family strengthening. Dr. Johnson chairs the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, the Newark Ryan White Planning Council, and the Board of Deacons at Union Baptist Church in Orange, New Jersey. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Vice Chair of the Community Prevention Task Force of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a former member of the Board of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education at the National Academies of Science. He has previously served as President of the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners; Chair of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Council on Graduate Medical Education; member of the National Council of the National Institute of Mental Health; member of the NIH AIDS Research Council; and member of the Institute of Medicine Health Care Services Board. Dr. Johnson received his BA from Alfred University in 1968 and his MD from the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark, in 1972.

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### **Alumni Classnotes:**

#### **Class of 2017:**

- Giovanna Manzano will soon start a new position at University of California Irvine where she will join the Division of Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology. In this role, she will build a clinic for patients with neurosarcoidosis, implement quality improvement focused initiatives for individuals with neuroimmunologic conditions, and continue as a clinician educator for the program's physician trainees.

#### **Class of 2019:**

- Brian Emmert was awarded the Outstanding Clinical Learning Environment Award for Faculty. This award recognizes residents and faculty at CUIMC and its affiliated institutions who have made an ongoing, substantial, and outstanding impact toward facilitating a clinical learning environment that fosters professionalism, belonging, humanism and ethical practice for Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons students. In addition, he was named the Course Director of the Epilepsy Sub-I and the SIGN (Student Interest Group in Neurology) at Columbia.

#### **Class of 2021:**

- Terence Ng was honored as a Resident Scholar by the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society.

#### **Class of 2022:**



- Madeline Abrams recently matched into fellowship at Columbia NYPH for Cardiovascular Disease.
- Tiana Hudson-Jerman matched to an Obstetric Anesthesia Fellowship at Emory, specializing in high-risk patients at Grady and Emory Midtown.

#### **Class of 2024:**

- Amanda Aguilo-Cuadra, Herman Dhillon, William DeGouveia (2022), Marcel Souffrant (2021), and Jonathan Schachne (2022) participated in ZSOM's Non-Surgical and Surgical Career Nights, generously sharing their time, experience, and professional insights with our students.



#### **[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!](#)**

#### **[Humans of Zucker: Dr Danielle Llanos — Rooted in Connection](#)**

Dr. Danielle Llanos, a Class of 2021 graduate of the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and a practicing physician in California, was recently featured in the Zucker School of Medicine Newsroom. Her journey reflects a strong commitment to lifelong learning, professional growth, and continuously refining her skills to become the best physician she can be. Click [here](#) to read more on her fascinating story!



**HUMANS OF ZUCKER**

"The relationships I developed during medical school have continued to guide and support me throughout residency and into my role as an attending. Whether it's a close friend or a former supervising physician, I know I can always count on their mentorship, encouragement, and maybe a "curbside consult." It's nice to feel rooted in a strong community."

**DANIELLE LLANOS, MD**  
CLASS OF 2021  
Donald and Barbara Zucker School  
of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell



#### **Recent School News:**

**[A Year in Review: 2025 Highlights](#)**

2025 marked a year of meaningful progress and notable achievements at the Zucker School of Medicine. Our students, faculty, and broader ZSOM community reached important milestones that reflect a strong commitment to excellence, innovation, and collaboration. As we look ahead to 2026, we remain focused on building upon this success and continuing to advance our mission. We invite you to explore our 2025 highlights [here](#).

2025 HIGHLIGHTS AT THE ZUCKER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE			
<b>JANUARY</b>	Bolstering Awareness, Advocacy and Action – Zucker School of Medicine Hosts Seventh Core Learning, Pain and Addiction Core Education (PACE) Week		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Zucker School of Medicine Medical Students First to Train on da Vinci 5 Surgical System		
<b>MARCH</b>	Zucker School of Medicine Inducts 2025 Class of AOA Honor Medical Society Inductees - Dr. Ajit K. Sachdeva, Visiting Professor, Delivers Special Lecture		
<b>APRIL</b>	Zucker School of Medicine Ranked Among Top Schools for Research by U.S. News and World Report		
<b>MAY</b>	New Generation of Doctors, New Horizons: Zucker School of Medicine Celebrates the Class of 2025 During Eleventh Commencement Ceremony		
<b>JUNE</b>	Viewpoint in JAMA Internal Medicine Examines Long-Term Health Impacts of Los Angeles Wildfires		
<b>JULY</b>	Zucker School of Medicine Celebrates 2025 Academy of Medical Educators Class of Inductees		
<b>AUGUST</b>	A New Chapter: Zucker School of Medicine Opens the Doors to its 15th Class of Students		
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Zucker School of Medicine Students Learn on the Job as EMTs at Mass Casualty Incident Day		
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Cloaked in a White Coat Future Doctors Commit to Promoting Empathy		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Zucker School of Medicine Students, Mentors, Ambassadors Recognized at Medical Student Research Week		
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Routine Ultrasound Lesson Saves Medical Student's Kidney		

## Student News:

- First-year medical student Aria Moreno volunteered as a “patient” in her ultrasound class at the Zucker School of Medicine, where students learn to perform and interpret ultrasounds. During the session, radiology resident Amanda Aguilo-Cuadra (2024), discovered Moreno had a large kidney stone. Following Aguilo-Cuadra’s advice, Moreno saw her doctor and required surgery. Click [here](#) to read more on this fascinating story.



- Second-year students at the Zucker School of Medicine showcased their summer research during the 14th Annual Medical Student Research Week, held November 3–7. Over 90 students, including those from outside Northwell Health, presented their findings, with awards given for Summer Research Scholarships, Science Excellence in Mentorship, and Mission



Ambassador. The event highlights the school's commitment to research, innovation, and evidence-based medical training. Click [here](#) to read more.



- The Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell celebrated its 10th annual Diversity Night, “A Living Mosaic,” on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Organized with multiple student groups and supported by the Offices of Engagement and Excellence and Student Affairs, the event highlighted the school's ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion—core values of the institution. Click [here](#) to read more.



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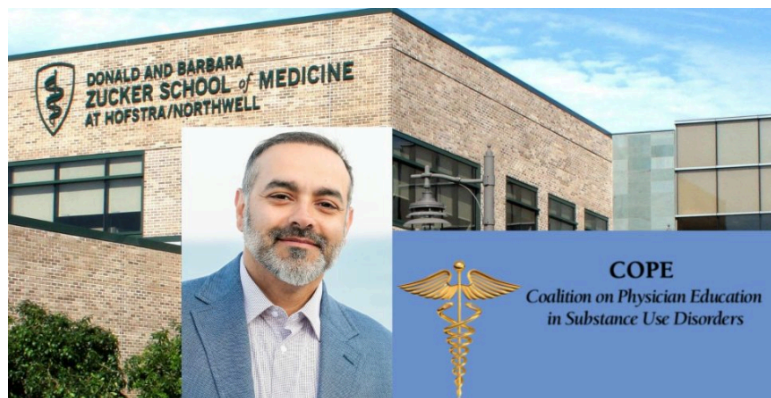
### Faculty News:

- Christoph Correll, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Molecular Medicine at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, was featured in *Pharmaceutical Executive* on December 26 in the article “Spinogenix Launches Phase II Trial for Synaptic Regenerative Therapy in Schizophrenia.” Click [here](#) to read more.
- Hofstra Law and the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell host the annual National Medical-Legal Mock Trial Tournament, the only competition in the country featuring live, medically accurate testimony from medical students. Tournament director Jared Rosenblatt teams with Hofstra Law alumni to craft each case's legal framework, while Medical School collaborators, including Dr. Joshua Schwimmer, MD, and fourth-year students, develop realistic medical files that mirror authentic healthcare documentation. Click [here](#) to read more.





- The Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell is proud to announce that Sandeep Kapoor, MD, a leading expert in substance use disorder, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Coalition on Physician Education in Substance Use Disorders (COPE). Dr. Kapoor, an assistant professor of medicine, emergency medicine, psychiatry, and science education at the Zucker School of Medicine, also serves as Vice President of Emergency Medicine Addiction Services and Director of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) at Northwell Health. Click [here](#) to read more.



- Jill Rabin, MD, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been inducted into the Long Island Business News Hall of Fame, with the ceremony held on November 12. The Hall of Fame honors the region's most accomplished and influential leaders—those whose vision, dedication, and lifetime achievements have made a lasting impact on the business community. 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](#).

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### 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](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!



## Support the Zucker School of Medicine



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*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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