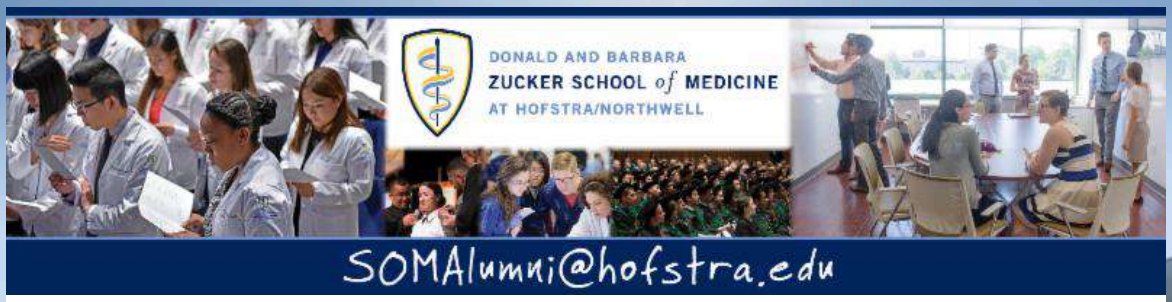

ZSOM Alumni Newsletter

July 2026

Greetings!

Hello, summer!

With sunny skies, warm evenings, and a little more time to pause and recharge, we hope this season has brought you plenty of opportunities to enjoy life beyond the busy pace of medicine. Whether you're traveling, spending time with family and friends, or simply soaking up the sunshine, we hope you're making the most of these summer moments!

Our Summer Social in NYC in June was a highlight of the season, bringing alumni together for an afternoon of laughter, conversation, and community. Take a look below for some highlights from our gathering!

In May, we proudly celebrated the Class of 2026 as they marked the completion of their medical education journey at the Zucker School of Medicine. We congratulate our newest graduates and wish them continued success as they begin the next chapter of their medical careers! There is also exciting news happening across the Zucker School of Medicine community! Read on for the latest updates, achievements, and highlights from ZSOM.

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 Summer Social in NYC! It was wonderful to reconnect with so many of our alumni, enjoy plenty of laughs, and spend a beautiful afternoon together. Whether you were catching up with longtime friends or making new connections, the event was a reminder of the strength and spirit of the ZSOM alumni community. We are grateful to everyone who made the

day a memorable success, and we look forward to seeing you at our next alumni event!





Alumni Panel Series – MS3/MS4 Career Advising

The Office of Career Advising invites alumni to participate in our upcoming Alumni Panel Series designed to support MS4 students as they prepare for residency applications. These virtual panels provide an opportunity for alumni to share their experiences, insights, and advice across a range of important topics:

- **July 23, 2026 (6:00–7:30 PM): Non-Surgical Specialties**
- **July 28, 2026 (6:00–7:30 PM): Surgical Specialties**

We are especially seeking alumni who graduated within the **last five years**, as well as those who can speak to their experiences in these areas, including Couples Match, applying outside their home region, and perspectives related to affinity groups and identity in medicine. We welcome alumni participation and encourage you to sign up to join a panel and connect with our students.

If you are interested, please fill out the form below:
https://hofstra.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3jvUE5jPW5pQIaG

Lead, Mentor, Inspire — Become a PEARLS Facilitator!

We are looking for facilitators for PEARLS groups for most of the First One Hundred Week courses. **PEARLS for MS1 courses takes place from 8 am-10 am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings**. Courses available include CPR (7 weeks from August-mid-September), BI (11 weeks from late September- early December), FTB (9 weeks from January- mid-March), and HOM (9 weeks from late-March through May). **PEARLS for MS2 courses takes place from 10:10 am-12:10 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings**. Courses available include IE (7 weeks from late-August -early October), and HC (10 weeks from early January until late-March).

If interested, please contact
Susan Deutsch at susan.l.deutsch@hofstra.edu.

Alumni Classnotes:

Class of 2019:

- Congratulations to Lena Liu on all of her exciting milestones! Dr. Liu recently started a new role as an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Boston Medical Center after completing her fellowship in Women's Neurology at Mass

General Brigham. She also recently published the second edition of her textbook, *Women's Neurology (What Do I Do Now)*, adding another accomplishment to her growing career. Dr. Liu is also celebrating a new chapter in her personal life as well—she recently got engaged! See below for the beautiful photo!



- Congratulations to Dennis Keselman on receiving the Child Neurology Teaching Award at this year's Neurology Resident Graduation! This honor recognizes Dennis's dedication to mentorship and his commitment to shaping the next generation of child neurologists. His passion for education and support of trainees reflects the lasting impact he continues to make in the field of pediatric neurology.

Class of 2020:

- Congratulations to Ryan Lee on the publication of his new book, *Medical Lore: Stories of the Dark History, Forgotten Failures, and Strange Successes of Medicine*! Now available on Amazon, Ryan's book explores fascinating moments throughout medical history and reflects on the discoveries, challenges, and lessons that continue to shape the field today. Check it out **here**!

Class of 2021:

- Grace Wu published "*Regulatory T cells in liver metastases: emerging and divergent roles in tumour progression*" in the journal *eGastroenterology*. The article explores the role of regulatory T cells in liver metastases and their impact on tumor progression and immunotherapy. Click **here** to read more!

Class of 2022:

- Congratulations to Ashley Barlev on the arrival of her baby girl, Dina, in November! Wishing her and her family all the best, check out the adorable photo of baby Dina below!



Class of 2023:

- Congratulations to Patrick Tierney on his continued leadership journey in neurology! Serving as chief neurology resident during his PGY-3 year was a meaningful and rewarding experience that allowed him to grow as a leader, physician, colleague, and friend. Patrick is excited to continue in this role for the upcoming academic year as a PGY-4 resident physician and chief neurology resident at Albany Medical Center.
- Saira Khan has matched into a Pediatric Emergency Medicine fellowship at Columbia and is thrilled to be returning home to New York for this next chapter. She was also recently selected as the trainee leader of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Pediatric Trainees (AAP SOPT) Narrative Medicine Group.

Recent School News:

Transforming Medical Education: Zucker School of Medicine's Innovative Approach Featured in HealthLeaders

The Zucker School of Medicine's groundbreaking approach to medical education was spotlighted in a June 3 *HealthLeaders* article featuring *Revolutionizing Medical Education: A Proven Blueprint to Transform Curricula and Prepare Future-Ready Physicians* by David Battinelli, MD, dean of the Zucker School of Medicine, and Lawrence G. Smith, MD, founding dean emeritus. The article highlighted the school's pioneering four-year integrated clinical curriculum, student-centered learning environment, and innovative assessment methods, showcasing how the Zucker School of Medicine is redefining medical education and preparing future-ready physicians. Click **here** to read more!



Zucker School of Medicine MD/PhD Program Receives $1.8 Million NIH Grant to Advance Physician-Scientist Training

The Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell has been awarded the highly competitive Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), recognizing the school's commitment to preparing the next generation of physician-scientists. The $1.8 million, five-year grant will support the school's MD/PhD program, which trains future leaders in biomedical, translational, and clinical research through a collaborative environment focused on advancing health care and improving lives. Betty Diamond, MD, program director of the Zucker School of Medicine's MD/PhD program and director of the Institute of Medical Research at Northwell's Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, noted that this NIH recognition reflects the strength of the program and its dedication to developing innovative physician-scientists. Click **here** to read more!



Pina C. Sanelli, MD, MPH,
Appointed Associate Dean for Student Affairs

The Zucker School of Medicine is pleased to welcome **Pina C. Sanelli, MD, MPH**, as associate dean for Student Affairs. Dr. Sanelli brings more than two decades of leadership experience in academic medicine, including serving as the inaugural vice chair of Research in Radiology at Northwell Health and holding leadership roles within national medical societies, including the American Society of Neuroradiology.

A dedicated educator and mentor, Dr. Sanelli has led successful training programs, guided students, residents, and fellows, and mentored more than 75 individuals throughout her career. At the Zucker School of Medicine, she founded and directs the Scholarly Concentration in Healthcare Effectiveness and Economics, an innovative program that supports students' academic and professional development. In her new role, Dr. Sanelli will continue to advance a student-centered approach and support the growth of future physicians.



Farewell and Best Wishes to Dr. Joel Stern

After 13 years of dedicated service to the Zucker School of Medicine, **Joel Stern, PhD**, Professor of Molecular Medicine, Neurology, Science Education, and Urology, and Co-Course Director of Interacting with the Environment, has accepted a new position and departed ZSOM effective July 6, 2026. Throughout his time at ZSOM, Dr. Stern made a lasting impact through his teaching, mentorship, and commitment

to student success. In addition to his academic roles, he served as Director of the Office of Medical Student Research (OMSR), where he guided students in exploring research opportunities and helped foster meaningful collaborations with scientists and physicians across the health system.

We are grateful for Dr. Stern's many contributions to our students, faculty, and the broader ZSOM community. We thank him for his dedication and wish him continued success in this next chapter.

White Coats, Bright Futures!

This 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 complete the short form by clicking the "**Be Featured in an Alumni Spotlight**" button below.
We'd love to showcase what our alumni are up to!

Be Featured in an Alumni Spotlight Here

View Past Alumni Spotlights Here

Student News:

- On June 2, 2026, the Zucker School of Medicine proudly welcomed a new class of Gold Humanism Honor Society inductees during the annual induction dinner. Sixteen medical students, four faculty members, and six residents were honored for exemplifying the values of compassionate, patient-centered care, service, and professionalism. Membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society recognizes individuals who consistently demonstrate humanistic values and a deep commitment to improving the lives of patients, families, colleagues, and their communities. Click **here** to read more!



- On May 12, 2026, the Zucker School of Medicine hosted the ninth annual Scholarship Donor Reception and Narrateur Launch, bringing together scholarship recipients, donors, faculty, administrators, and members of the Hofstra/Northwell community for an evening of gratitude and celebration. The event recognized the generosity of scholarship donors whose support helps future physicians achieve their goals and featured the unveiling of the 15th edition of Narrateur: *Reflections on Caring*, the school's acclaimed art and

literary journal, highlighting the creativity, compassion, and humanism of the Zucker School of Medicine community. Click **here** to read more!





- Congratulations to the Class of 2026! On May 11, 2026, the Zucker School of Medicine celebrated the graduation of 87 new physicians and scientists during its Commencement ceremony. The Class of 2026 included 76 MD graduates, one PhD graduate, five MD/PhD graduates, two MD/OMS graduates, two MD/MS graduates, and one MD/MPH graduate. The ceremony marked the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance, and academic achievement as graduates prepared to begin the next chapter of their medical careers! Click **here** to read more!



Faculty News:

- On June 11, 2026, the Zucker School of Medicine welcomed a new class of faculty into its Academy of Medical Educators during the Annual Faculty Meeting. The Academy recognizes faculty members who have demonstrated

a sustained commitment to excellence in medical education and outstanding contributions to teaching, mentoring, and educational innovation. As part of a national consortium of more than 120 medical schools, the Academy celebrates educators who help shape the next generation of physicians. Click **here** to read more!





- John M. Kane, MD, professor of psychiatry at the Zucker School of Medicine and co-director of the Institute of Behavioral Science at Northwell Health's Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, received the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Schizophrenia International Research Society. The prestigious honor recognizes Dr. Kane's outstanding contributions to schizophrenia research and his lasting impact on advancing the understanding and treatment of serious mental illness. Read more **here**!



- Michael Schulder, MD, professor and vice chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Zucker School of Medicine, has been appointed to the Neurosurgery Advisory Council for Hyperfine, Inc. In this role, he will help guide the advancement of the company's FDA-cleared AI-powered portable brain MRI system, the Swoop® system, which has the potential to integrate imaging directly into surgical workflows and further enhance patient care. Read more **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**.

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!

Support the Zucker School of Medicine

DONALD AND BARBARA
ZUCKER SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE
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.*

Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell | 500 Hofstra University | Hempstead, NY 11549 US

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