



University Senate
William Wertheim, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine
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SBM EVP Report

ACADEMIC UPDATES

Dr. Yi-Xian Qin to Receive Biomedical Engineering Society Award for Excellence in Leadership

Yi-Xian Qin, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the Renaissance School of Medicine and in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been selected to receive the 2025 Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) CMBE Christopher Jacobs Award for Excellence in Leadership. The annual award, named in honor of Dr. Christopher Jacobs, co-founder and council member of the CMBE Special Interest Group under BMES, recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership within the Cell and Molecular Bioengineering community. Dr. Qin, who also directs the Orthopedic Bioengineering Research Laboratory, co-directs the Institute for Engineering-Driven Medicine, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), will deliver a lecture and be honored at the 2025 BMES Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering (CMBE) Conference in Carlsbad, California, from January 3 to 6.

Debra Giugliano Receives Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses Award

Debra Giugliano has been named recipient of the Diane Fochtman Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing New Author Award, presented by the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses (APHON). Debra, a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Stony Brook Children's Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, has dedicated more than 34 years to improving the lives of pediatric hematology and oncology patients. Her awardwinning paper, *A Dimensional Analysis of School Connectedness in Adolescents Newly Diagnosed With Cancer*, explores the challenges adolescents face when navigating medical, psychosocial, and educational issues following a cancer diagnosis. Through semi-structured interviews with 19 adolescents, Debra uncovered key dimensions of school connectedness, including "School Days and Ways," "The Boom," "The Pause," and "Connection Reconciliation: Me, You, and Learning." Her research highlights how cancer disrupts school relationships and diminishes school connections, yet adolescents often express a strong desire to restore those connections. Debra's work sheds light on the importance of school connectedness as a protective factor for





adolescents with cancer, providing valuable insights for healthcare providers, educators, and families to better support these young patients as they face the physical, psychosocial, and educational challenges of their illness.

Rewa Thompson Receives Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Nurse of Excellence Award

Dr. Rewa Thompson has been honored with the "Nurse of Excellence Award" in Education by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council. The Nassau Suffolk Council's Nurse of Excellence Award continues a tradition based on New York State's former Nurse of Distinction Program, recognizing extraordinary nursing contributions. This prestigious recognition follows her receipt of the CELT David L. Ferguson Award for Inclusive Teaching and her nomination for the President's Award for Nurturing a Welcoming, Inclusive Campus Culture, set to be announced at the upcoming Stony Awards on November 20th. Dr. Thompson, a Roosevelt resident and clinical associate professor at Stony Brook School of Nursing, stood out among 21 nominees selected from a pool of 500 nurses across Long Island's hospitals and educational institutions. Her commitment to nursing education, women's health, and reproductive rights is evident in her tireless advocacy for health equity. She has spearheaded initiatives that promote understanding and empowerment among nursing faculty, students, and the community. In addition to her local work, Dr. Thompson serves as a subject matter expert for the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing's education workgroup.

Renaissance School of Medicine Faculty Selected for Faculty Awards

The Renaissance School of Medicine faculty selected 13 educators for its 2024 Faculty Awards. Those selected were nominated by their peers in 11 categories for their outstanding work in the areas of research, teaching, clinical service, mentoring and humanism. They will receive their awards and be recognized at the Annual Faculty Awards and Promotions Ceremony on Thursday, November 14, at the Hilton Garden Inn. The RSOM congratulates this year's award winners, and thanks the faculty who submitted and reviewed the nominations.

- Aesculapius Award for Teaching: Roderick A. Go (Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases)
- Senior Research Excellence: Hyungjin Kim, PhD (Department of Pharmacological Sciences)
- Early Career Research Excellence: Helen Hsieh, MD, PhD (Department of Surgery) and Sima Mofakham, PhD (Department of Neurosurgery)
- Excellence in Medical Student Mentoring: Lisa Strano-Paul, MD, FACP (Department of Medicine)





- Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring: Markus Seeliger, PhD (Department of Pharmacological Sciences)
- Excellence in Resident/Fellow Mentoring: Lisa Fisher, MD (Department of Medicine, Northport VA Medical Center) and Lovedhi Aggarwal, MD (Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine and Stony Brook Southampton Hospital)
- Excellence in Faculty Mentorship: Bettina Fries, MD, FIDSA (Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases)
- Excellence in Clinical Service: Alpa Desai, MD (Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine)
- Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award Presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation: Kerim Odekon, MD (Department of Medicine)
- Excellence in Student Mentoring at an Affiliate Site: Bushra Wazed, MD (Department of Medicine, Northport VA Medical Center)
- Excellence in Clinical Practice in the Community: Anshu Singh, MD (Department of Medical Services, LI State Veterans Home)

Kevin Tuttle Named School of Dental Medicine Associate Dean for Finance and Administration

A proven healthcare executive on Long Island and beyond, Kevin Tuttle has been appointed associate dean for finance and administration at Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine. In this position, Tuttle will oversee the finance and administration, staff human resources, information and technology and facilities of the school, working with the school's leadership to maintain a responsive financial and administrative organization. This includes leading physical resource, construction, renovation and capital planning initiatives; developing, revising and implementing policies and procedures for school activities; preparing an annual budget and year-end financial report; and ensuring that the clinic and school comply with state and national regulations.

Lisa Komnik Appointed School of Health Professions DEIB Program Coordinator

Lisa Komnik has been appointed as the new Program Coordinator for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). Her outstanding efforts in securing funding and organizing microaggressions workshops have been instrumental in advancing DEIB initiatives in the School of Health Professions. In her new role, Lisa will continue to drive meaningful progress and foster an inclusive environment within our school community.





Breaking Down Barriers: SBU, Samaritan Daytop Village Tackle Mental Health, Addiction Crisis (SB News)

In an Op-Ed published earlier this month, Melissa J. Earle, School of Social Welfare clinical associate professor and director of Addictions and Online Education, along with James Hollywood, Vice President of Residential and Recovery Services at Samaritan Daytop Village discussed a new pathway for frontline workers within Samaritan's residential programs, transitional housing and outpatient settings to pursue an MSW degree free of charge while continuing to work. This specialized pathway through Stony Brook's MSW curriculum addresses the educational needs of working addiction professionals.

Renaissance School of Medicine Researchers Explore MRI Techniques and Substance Abuse

In a study using neuromelanin-sensitive MRI to examine young adults aged 20-24 with extensive alcohol and drug use, a team of researchers from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health discovered increased MRI signals in midbrain regions associated with dopamine production, especially in young women. Through this specialized MRI technique, the team can safely study neuromelanin accumulation to gain further insights into the effects of substance use on the dopamine system at a younger age. The study's findings, which were published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* and supported by the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse, highlights a gap in understanding early-stage effects of substance use, as most research has focused on older adults. The research team is also conducting a new study, using neuromelanin-sensitive MRI in teenagers aged 14-17 to evaluate the effects of neuromelanin accumulation brought on by life experiences amid those teenage years, including substance and alcohol use, social media use and stressful events.

Renaissance School of Medicine Faculty Selected for ACHIEVEMENT Program

The RSOM, in collaboration with the Stony Brook College of Business, has selected 16 faculty nominees for its ACHIEVEMENT program, a leadership curriculum for mid-career faculty development. The participants began working on the program October 9, and will continue to do so through the academic year. The ACHIEVEMENT program is delivered as a hybrid, with one monthly in-person session focusing on a key theme that includes role plays and mini case studies and scripts for common health care system leadership situations, and one monthly Zoom session that gives participants opportunities to interact with the leadership, chairs and each other.

- Lesley Bennici, MD (Regional Anesthesia Division)
- Amruta Desai, DO, MPH, MBA (Regional Anesthesia Division)





- Sadia Abbasi, MD (Division of General, Geriatric and Hospital Medicine)
- Olga Aroniadis, MD, MS (Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology)
- Marina Charitou, MD (Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism)
- Marshall Miller, MD (Division of General, Geriatric and Hospital Medicine)
- Jig Patel, MD, MSc (Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine)
- Asha Patnaik, MD (Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology)
- Agnieszka Kowalska, MD (Adult Neurology Division)
- Rebecca Spiegel, MD (Adult Neurology Division)
- Nariman Boyle, MD (Department of Ophthalmology)
- Fazel Khan, MD (Department of Orthopedics)
- Caitlin Feeks, DO (Department of Pediatrics)
- Poonamdeep K. Gill, MD (Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health)
- Georgios Georgakis, MD, PhD (Department of Surgery)
- Angela Kokkosis, MD, FACS (Department of Surgery)

Center for Healthy Aging Hosts Clinical Geriatric Improvement Research Workshop

The Center for Healthy Aging (CHA) hosted a Clinical Geriatric Improvement Research Workshop at the MART Building on October 23. The in-person, interactive workshop for fellows, junior faculty and students included a presentation from Shari Ling, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and Medical Officer in the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ), followed by a roundtable discussion moderated by Chief Quality Officer Eric Morley and featuring experts in Institution Review Board (IRB) submissions, statistical considerations, hypothesis generation and testing, protocol development, and computational needs. Afterward, they and other experts provided their feedback and answered questions on several interactive case presentations that were given by faculty, fellows and graduate students.

The CHA will next hold its Fall Symposium at the Charles B. Wang Center on November 6, from 7:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The symposium will provide updates on CHA-funded pilot projects and feature several presentations, including one from the RSOM's new Chair of the Department of Neurology, Joe Verghese. Attendees can learn about the research currently being done at the UConn Center on Aging. Lunch will be served, and there will be opportunities to network and join the NIH-funded SenNet Consortium, which was established to better understand the senescent cells that underlie aging and chronic disease development.





Partnership Between School of Social Welfare and School of Nursing Inspires Learning

MSW students specializing in Integrated Health and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner students from SBU's School of Nursing participated in an interprofessional simulation. This experiential approach to learning offered students the opportunity to enhance critical thinking skills and knowledge of collaboration with another profession. Students worked collaboratively throughout the day to build on interprofessional competencies and establish an understanding of other professions. Working alongside SSW and SON faculty, graduate students engaged in real-life case studies and learn about working together with other professions in an effort to build stronger interdisciplinary understanding. This innovative collaboration supports a cross-disciplinary, team-based learning experience and critical thinking skills.

Health Science Alum Wins Ann Marie Brown Memorial Scholarship

School of Health Professions alum, Hamnah Khan '24, Health Science, is the recent recipient of the 2024 Ann Marie Brown Memorial Scholarship. This \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and its Communications Committee. The Ann Marie Brown Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of the late Vice President for Government and Public Relations of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, a professional organization that represents Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals. Ann Marie was a high profiled leader, committed advocate, and respected professional. This award was established to perpetuate her principles and interests.

School of Social Welfare Unveils New Student Engagement, Ambassador Opportunities

With the start of the fall semester, SSW has started four affinity groups, student-led spaces where people with a shared identity come together. The groups aim to build community as they engage in activities and programs. After conducting a student poll last spring, four groups were organized, each with a faculty advisor: Impacted by Immigration; LGBTQ+ students; returning & parenting students; and black students.

SSW also welcomed and trained its inaugural cohort of Student Ambassadors, who represent the School from the student perspective at admissions and community events. Ambassadors foster a sense of belonging by engaging with inquirers, answering questions about applying, and providing reassurance and guidance to both prospective and current students.





CLINICAL UPDATES AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Stony Brook University Hospital was the winner of the Vizient Environmental Sustainability Excellence award for the category of comprehensive academic medical centers. It focuses on performance measured through sustainable purchasing decisions and a commitment to reduce carbon emissions and improve climate resilience for each cohort. Ranking is based on the purchase of products that meet Vizient's Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Standard as a percentage of their Vizient spend. Awardees also committed to the White House-Health and Human Services Health Sector Climate Pledge. The ceremony was held at the Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas. Our award was accepted by Carol Gomes, CEO /COO, Carolyn Santora, CNO /CRO and Dr. Eric Morley, CQO.

Carol Gomes and Carolyn Santora received the 2024 HERALD Excellence in Healthcare Awards along with Michelle Ballan, professor and Associate Dean for Research in the Stony Brook School of Social Welfare, recognized for her research, teaching and service dedicated to individuals with disabilities and their families. The awards recognize healthcare professionals for their impact in the Long Island community, unrivaled research and innovative programs and services, and honor individuals whose dedication and commitment has made a difference in the health and wellbeing of others.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

 Several leadership changes within Stony Brook Medicine will became effective November 1, 2024 that impact Stony Brook Community Medical (SBCM) and Meeting House Lane (MHL).

Dr. William Wertheim's promotion to Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine required appointing a new president of SBCM. Under Dr. Wertheim's leadership, Stony Brook Medicine is committed to improving integration across our health system. Therefore, the leadership team has decided to unify the roles of president of SBCM and MHL under one leader, as well as to integrate the operational leadership of both SBCM and MHL.

Dr. Konstantinos Spaniolas will serve as the next President of SBCM and MHL. To support Dr. Spaniolas in his dual role, Dr. Dara Brener will be elevated to Medical Director of SBCM, and Dr. Lara DeSanti-Siska will serve as the Medical Director of MHL. For operations, Jennifer Crema, the Executive Director of Stony Brook Administrative Services (SBAS), will be promoted to the Executive Director of SBAS and MHL. Michelle Mullin will continue as the Practice Administrator of MHL, reporting to Jennifer Crema.





Dr. John Patrick Reilly, has capably served Stony Brook Medicine as the President of MHL. As MHL's structure changes, we have an exciting opportunity to expand our efforts to grow cardiac services. Dr. Reilly will be appointed the Director of East End Cardiology Development, where he will lead efforts to shepherd new and innovative cardiac services for the East End of Long Island.

• Joe Verghese, MBBS, MD, MS, has been named Chair of the Department of Neurology. Appointed by Peter Igarashi, MD, Knapp Dean of the Renaissance School of Medicine, Dr. Verghese is a nationally recognized expert in the areas of gait and cognition in aging. His appointment began on Monday, Oct. 14.

Dr. Verghese comes to Stony Brook after more than two decades at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Most recently, he served as Professor of Neurology and Medicine and was Einstein's inaugural Chief of the Division of Cognitive and Motor Aging in the Department of Neurology. In addition to being the Murray D. Gross Memorial Faculty Scholar in Gerontology at Einstein and a former Chief of Geriatrics for Montefiore Medical Center's Department of Medicine, he was also the Founding Director of the Montefiore Einstein Center for the Aging Brain, an interdisciplinary clinical dementia and cognitive assessment center named as a Center of Excellence in Alzheimer's disease by the New York State Department of Health in 2016.

 John J. Labiak, MD, and his practice have joined Stony Brook Medicine Community Medical Group, Stony Brook Medicine's expanding network of community practices. As a boardcertified orthopedic spine surgeon with more than 30 years of experience, Dr. Labiak specializes in all aspects of scoliosis and spinal surgery, providing comprehensive care to patients throughout Long Island and New York City.

Dr. Labiak received his medical degree from the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse and completed an orthopedic surgery residency and subsequent spine surgery fellowship at The Hospital for Joint Diseases Orthopedic Institute in New York, NY. He shares his knowledge and experience as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopedics & Neurosurgery at Stony Brook Medicine.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Emergency Services:

• On October 2, 2024 the Emergency Management Department completed the annual flu POD. With the assistance of Pharmacy, Public Safety, IT, Support Services, the School of Nursing, Communications, SBU CERT Team, SBVAC, and Facilities, the group was able to vaccinate over 1,500 students, faculty and staff. This annual program not only provides a quick and easy





mechanism to receive the annual flu vaccine, but also validates our ability to provide mass vaccinations should they be needed.

Heart Institute:

• The Heart Institute will be conducting education sessions on early heart attack and AED training to the community and local EMS agencies. The agenda includes education on early signs and symptoms of a heart attack and AED equipment on-site demonstration

Women's/Children's:

- Acupuncturist Mark Petruzzi was invited to present at the 3rd International Oncology Acupuncture Symposium on the work that he has completed with Stony Brook Children's Hospital and the Stony Brook Valerie Foundation Pediatric Cancer Center. Mark's work has focused on providing comfort and symptom alleviation for children admitted to Children's or are receiving prolonged treatment for challenging diagnoses or chronic conditions. His position is gratefully funded by the Island Outreach Foundation.
- An abstract submitted by our Pediatric Certified Nurse Specialists, Karen Burgess and Ashley Duffner, Breaking it down: Steps to Improving competency and comfortability in the performance of resuscitative skills, was accepted for a 30-minute podium session in the Quality Improvement track at the Society of Pediatric Nurses 35th Annual Conference Imagine the Possibilities in the spring of 2025. This national conference is a highly competitive environment for presentation acceptance.

Ancillary/Support Services:

- Effective 10/1/24, a new process for ordering the Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) by Indirect Immunofluorescence Assay (IFA) testing has been implemented. This process change now allows for our practitioners the continued ability to order the ANA by IFA (now sent to our primary reference lab-ARUP Labs for screen testing at a cost much lower than performing it in-house) while ensuring that all the secondary testing for positive ANA IFA screen results are performed at our Hospital Clinical Immunology Laboratory. The process change will result in cost savings while improving on work efficiency. In advance of this process change, our practitioners were sent a clinical education letter informing them of this change.
- The SBUH Linen Services Department has teamed with Equipment Management to create a tracking and cleaning process for the new Posey Restraint cuff which was recently introduced by the Division of Nursing. Due to the short life expectancy of this restraint, the laundering and tracking are a crucial part of ensuring the restraints are removed from service as needed to ensure patient care standard is continually met.





Human Resources:

The Joint Commission

• HR Standards were reviewed during the triennial Joint Commission survey. The Joint Commission found HR to be compliant with all standards.

Recruiting and Retention

- Voluntary Turnover rates remain well below the industry average of 15%
- Job vacancy rates remain well below the industry average of 19%.

Staffing Metric	SBELIH	SBSH	SBUH	Total
Total Employees	451	1328	8011	9790
Voluntary Separations	3	4	48	55
Annualized Voluntary Turnover				
Rate	7.98%	3.61%	7.19%	6.74%
Position Vacancies	69	179	383	631
Position Vacancy Rate	13.27%	11.88%	4.56%	6.06%

Patient Experience:

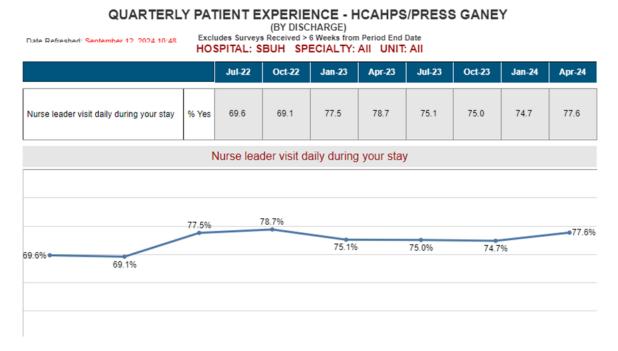
- The Language Access Team launched the Language Concordant Program which provides an evaluation for licensed medical professionals to have direct communication with a patient or patient's family without the use of a medical interpreter. All licensed medical professionals will have the opportunity to apply if they are bilingual and fluent in a language other than English and who attained their medical license abroad in the country of that language.
- Nicole Rossol and Dr. Jonathan Buscaglia provided the Patient Experience Compassionate Connected Care Grand Rounds to the Department of Dermatology this month.
- Rose Cardin and other members of the Stony Brook Medicine LGBTQ+ Committee presented Advancing LGBTQ+ Health Equity with Vanderbilt University at the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Health Professionals Conference.
- Two new members joined the patient experience team: Aisha Arshad is our new Data Analyst for Patient Experience and Shana Kaplanov is our new Chaplain for Pediatrics.
- Nicole Rossol attended the Girl Scouts of Suffolk County Annual Event as a representative of the Health Equity and Community Partnerships Committee.
- The Patient Experience Team submitted the final changes to Press Ganey/Centers for Medicare Medicaid to the HCAHPS survey which will go into effect January 1, 2025. An education plan and rollout for staff will be launched November 1, 2025.
- The Quarterly Patient Experience Steering Committee was held to focus on a high-level overview of Patient Experience across Stony Brook Medicine, areas for improvement and identifying and





resolving barriers. IRound, an electronic rounding tool to capture real time feedback was discussed to proactively identify patient issues. It has been implemented at Stony Brook University Hospital and will be rolled out to Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital and Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. Nurse Leader Rounds, the key tactic to drive improvement across survey domains of Nurse Communication, Overall Rating and Safety/Quality measures was launched using IRound in February and is starting to show improvement. Patients identifying, they saw a Nurse Leader during their stay improved from 74.7 to 77.6 mean score which is paramount to an optimal patient experience (as shown below).

% of patients who identified a Nurse Leader would visit daily during their hospital stay



Quality:

C. diff

Stony Brook University Hospital's C.diff Prevention Workgroup will present a poster, Preventing Clostridium difficile Infection: A Continuous Quality Improvement Journey, at the IHI Forum 2024 this December, highlighting its continuous improvement efforts.

The multidisciplinary workgroup aims to reduce hospital-onset Clostridium difficile infections (HO-CDIs) relative to the Vizient Decile rankings for the NHSN Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR).





In 2021, SBUH's SIR exceeded the Vizient Median AMC leading to concerted diagnostic stewardship and standardized cleaning processes education in 2022 with the SIR reaching top decile ranking (0.29) in Q2 2022.

In 2023, a nurse driven protocol (NDP) following CDC recommendations was piloted with SIR reaching top decile in Q3 2023.

- The pilot success led to facility wide expansion in June 2024, facilitating early testing and isolation, and helping to ensure accurate categorization of cases as either community-onset (CO, admission days 1-3) or hospital-onset (HO, days 4+). Comprehensive education was provided to all nursing and medical staff regarding the protocol and is reinforced at a multi-disciplinary team RCA huddle on every unit with an HO-CDI.
- Preliminary NDP outcomes: 1) PCR testing shifted from 23% to 57% in days 1-3 of admission between Q1 2023 and Q1 2024; 2) NDP PCR orders accounted for between 33% to 50% of CO cases after facility wide expansion; 3) NDP didn't increase total PCR testing.

Continuous NDP staff education and meticulous outcomes tracking contributed to patient safety improvements with earlier diagnosis and isolation.

SB Safe

• SB Safe dashboard functionality was introduced to the team via demonstration. The purpose of considering this functionality was to be able to present organized SB Safe information to senior leadership. An example of a system-wide dashboard was presented for review to the Patient Safety Committee and Patient Safety Steering Committee.

Completion of a staff survey to determine current patient event reporting perception and SB Safe patient event reporting challenges occurred in April and May, 2024. Prior surveys occurred 2017 and 2019.

Based on the survey results, the team identified the need for collaboration and development of a better process to improve communication to front line reporters related to the outcome of patient event reporting follow up actions.

The SB Safe Downtime Form was revised as a Stony Brook Medicine system-wide form. The purpose of the form is to allow event reporting in circumstances when a staff member cannot access the live system. To standardize the SB Safe downtime form for use by all SB sites, several modifications were made. Feedback occurred from all three hospitals prior to the upload of the form to the SB Safe Resources SharePoint site and HelpDesk notification.