



TO: University Senate
FROM: William Wertheim, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine
DATE: October 6, 2025
SUBJECT: SBM EVP Report

ACADEMIC UPDATES

RSOM's MD/PhD Program Receives New Five-Year Grant from the NIH ([SB news](#))

The Medical Science Training Program (MSTP) in the Renaissance School of Medicine (RSOM) at Stony Brook University has received a five-year \$5.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue training future physician scientists. The funding runs through 2030.

The MSTP was developed by the NIH decades ago to encourage students with a passion for scientific discovery that leads to improved clinical care to be able to pursue this career path without being deterred by the high level of debt that most medical students acquire during their education. NIH funding for the program covers tuition and health insurance and provides a modest stipend.

Stony Brook Surgery Research Team Awarded Grants for High-Tech Wound Care Solution

A research team led by Research Associate Professor of Surgery Gurtej Singh, from the RSOM and Stony Brook Medicine's Department of Surgery, has been awarded two grants totaling \$696,431. These grants will build on previously awarded seed grants from the Department of Surgery and enable the team to continue research into tissue regeneration and the future of wound healing for patients with severe injuries.

Researchers Awarded NIH Grant to Explore Cardiovascular Disease Cues Hidden in Dental Scans ([SB News](#))

Mina Mahdian, associate professor in the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine (SDM) Department of Prosthodontics and Digital Technology, and Prateek Prasanna, assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics, have received a \$300,000 grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) of the NIH to explore whether routine dental imaging can be used to detect early signs of heart disease.

The two-year research project is titled "Automated Characterization of Arterial Calcification in Dental Cone Beam Computed Tomography as Predictors of Cardiovascular Disease." It aims to develop an AI-driven tool that can automatically identify and characterize arterial calcifications, mineral deposits that can signal cardiovascular risk, visible in cone beam CT (CBCT) scans commonly used in dental practices.

Robert Bronstein Receives Grant to Advance Kidney Disease Research

Robert Bronstein, a faculty research investigator in the Department of Medicine's Division of Nephrology and Hypertension in the RSOM, has received a grant from KidneyCure to advance his research on the kidney glomerulus, the central filtration unit of the organ. Bronstein is one of 23 early career kidney disease researchers nationally to receive a 2025 award from KidneyCure. He is one of only nine researchers to be awarded under the Transition to Independence Grants Program, which supports young investigators in launching their independent research careers.

Susan Miale and Nancy Krisch Earn Credential from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare

Susan Miale and Nancy Krisch have been awarded the prestigious Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator (CHSE) Credential from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. This international certification recognizes advanced expertise in designing and implementing simulation-based learning experiences in healthcare and healthcare education.

Sawanee Khongsawatwaja Selected for National Leadership Program

Sawanee Khongsawatwaja, Assistant Dean of Finance and Administration for the School of Social Welfare (SSW), has been accepted into the prestigious Emerging Leaders Program—a national leadership development initiative hosted by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). The program is designed for finance and business professionals from NACUBO-member institutions and focuses on enhancing leadership capabilities, strengthening cross-campus collaboration, and expanding professional networks. This year's cohort includes 80 members representing 72 institutions across 32 states.

Guenter Jonke Honored with Prestigious Feldman Service Award ([SDM News](#))

Guenter Jonke, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, was honored with the prestigious New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) Mark J. Feldman Distinguished Service Award. In addition to caring for patients in private practice for more than 35 years, Jonke has been a longtime proponent of organized dentistry, including currently as president of the New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Tracy Cavanaugh Named Jonas-Flynn Scholar for Nursing ([SBM News](#))

Tracy Cavanaugh, RN, was one of six nurses nationwide recently selected for the fourth cohort of the Jonas-Flynn Oncology Nurse DNP Scholars program. The joint Jonas Nursing and Flynn Foundation scholarship program recognizes and supports doctoral nursing students seeking to improve healthcare for cancer patients. Professor Cavanaugh is the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner program director and a clinical instructor of graduate studies and advanced practice nursing at the School of Nursing (SON).



Anu Andrews Receives Excellence in Inclusive Teaching – David L. Ferguson Award

Anu Andrews, Clinical Assistant Professor in Respiratory Care, received the Excellence in Inclusive Teaching – The David L. Ferguson Award by Stony Brook's Center for Excellence in Teaching (CELT). With over two decades of experience as a respiratory therapist, Anu brings her extensive clinical knowledge into the classroom, creating a dynamic and supportive learning environment through hands-on labs and small-group case studies, ensuring every student feels supported and seen. The award recognizes her commitment to inclusive teaching practices and student success.

Tracy Trimboli Receives CELT Excellence in Assessment Award

Tracy Trimboli, Clinical Instructor in the SON, is the recipient of this year's Excellence in Assessment Award from CELT. The award recognizes faculty who have demonstrated excellence in assessment techniques and measures, both formative and summative, in their courses.

SHP Announces Recipients of Inaugural DEIB Champion Awards

Lisa Johnson, Stephen Sebor, and Teresa Blaskopf, recipients of the School of Health Professions (SHP) Inaugural Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Champion Award. The award honors school members who are passionate about creating a positive impact and commitment to fostering a sense of community for all, and who demonstrate dedication and continuing commitment advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their development, teaching, and work spaces; foster positive communication and actively promote inter-group relationships; and demonstrate involvement in events, projects, efforts, or organizations that promote mutual respect, acceptance, cooperation, or tolerance.

White Coat Ceremony Marks Journey into Medicine for 141 RSOM Students

A record 141 incoming students donned their physician-in-training white coats for the first time at the RSOM 2025 White Coat Ceremony on August 8 at Stony Brook University's Staller Center. The event marked the first of many steps these students will take on their way to becoming medical doctors while matriculating at the RSOM. The incoming students are a select group. According to RSOM administrators, only seven percent of the applicants were accepted into the program for the 2025-26 academic year.

RSOM Faculty Lead Breakthrough AI Study on Consciousness and Brain Injury Recovery

A study published in Nature Communications Medicine led by neurosurgery researchers Sima Mofakham and Chuck Mikell, MD, of the RSOM provides clinicians with data about the path to consciousness after traumatic brain injury (TBI) that may help pave the way for more personalized and effective patient care strategies in critical care and rehabilitation settings.



Mofakham and Mikell developed a first-of-its-kind artificial intelligence tool called SeeMe, which detects signs of covert consciousness by analyzing microscopic facial movements invisible to the naked eye. Their findings suggest that SeeMe can identify signs of awareness out to eight days earlier than traditional clinical exams. The work directly addresses the central dilemma outlined in a landmark 2024 study in The New England Journal of Medicine by Bodien et al., which found that 15 to 25 percent of patients diagnosed as unresponsive in the intensive care unit may retain high-level brain function, but standard bedside tests are not sensitive enough to detect it. This misdiagnosis delays treatment and rehabilitation for patients who may otherwise recover.

New Dental Medicine Wet Lab to Strengthen Students' Clinical Techniques ([SDM News](#))

SDM celebrated the opening of its state-of-the-art student wet laboratory with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 19. The new facility promises to enhance the dental student experience by providing an advanced, hands-on learning environment designed to foster skill development, expand knowledge in dental laboratory technology, and learn about innovations in prosthodontics. Sixty-four percent larger than its predecessor, the lab is equipped with the latest dental lab equipment, including integrated knee control electric handpiece units and suction units at each of its workstations, as well as monomer extraction units. It also features several high-end model trimmers, vibrating tables, and an array of other advanced lab devices such as electronic vacuum mixers, MiniSTAR thermoforming units, a sandblaster machine, air chisels and more. The lab's area dedicated to model fabrication and trimming doubled in size, allowing for the installation of a center island workstation.

SHP Hosts Falls Prevention Clinic

In early September, the SHP officially kicked off its Falls Prevention Clinic at Stony Brook Southampton. Physical therapy and occupational therapy students and faculty collaborated to provide a free program for older adults, helping them stay active, safe, and well. The clinic provides SHP students with hands-on experience while giving back to the community. SHP faculty Christina Burke, Darlene Piraino, and Hannah Mercier led the initiative.

SSW Hosts Community Connect Series

SSW kicked off the academic year with the continued momentum of the Community Connect series, a lineup of events designed to enrich student learning beyond the classroom. Featuring guest speakers, faculty, alumni, and experts in the profession, these sessions dive into timely and relevant topics that support academic and personal growth and connection with peers. From panel discussions to interactive workshops, Community Connect fosters meaningful dialogue, real-world insight, and builds a stronger sense of community within SSW.



Department of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine's Nutrition Division Helps Kid Chefs Create and Eat Healthy Food from a Rooftop Garden

More than a dozen children from the community experienced how food moves from farm to table and worked on building healthy habits through unique cooking and nutrition classes at Stony Brook Medicine. The annual Healthy Cooking and Baking Classes encourage children to gain kitchen experience and learn healthier cooking habits at an early age.

The three-day series, organized by the Department of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine's Nutrition Division, teaches kids how to prepare their own meals and pick fresh farm-grown produce from the 2,242-square-foot rooftop garden known as Stony Brook Heights Rooftop Farm. The hospital's rooftop farm supplies approximately 1,500 pounds of produce per year for patient meal trays and local charities.

Kelly Ade Receives SUNY Healthcare Educator Scholarship

SON student and Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) nurse Kelly Ade has been named one of 12 inaugural awardees of the SUNY Healthcare Educator Scholarship program. A Miller Place native, Ade is enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner master's program and works in SBUH's main operating room as a nurse practitioner. Her goal is to teach as a university nursing professor specializing in cardiology or functional medicine.

CLINICAL UPDATES

AWARDS, ACCOLADES & NEWS:

2025-2026 Best Hospital by U.S. News & World Report

SBUH has been recognized as a 2025-2026 Best Hospital by U.S. News & World Report, ranking in the top 10 in the state out of more than 203 hospitals statewide, up from No. 12 in the state last year. SBUH also rated high performing in six adult specialties nationwide, including Gastroenterology & GI Surgery, Geriatrics, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pulmonology & Lung Surgery and Urology. Of the more than 4,400 hospitals analyzed, only ninety-six have 6 or more High Performing or ranked adult specialties. In NYS, just fourteen hospitals have 6 or more High Performing or ranked adult specialties.

The evaluation of SBUH includes data from Stony Brook Southampton Hospital (SBSH), Stony Brook Children's Hospital and Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital (SBEIHL), which comprises the Stony Brook Medicine (SBM) healthcare system.

To determine the Best Hospitals, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,400 hospitals' performance on objective measures such as risk-adjusted mortality rates, preventable complications, and level of nursing care. The Best Hospitals Specialty rankings methodology and Procedures & Conditions ratings methodology measure patient outcomes using data from over 800 million records of patient care. This year, among other methodology refinements, U.S. News added

ratings in two new cohorts, Heart Arrhythmia and Pacemaker Implantation, to the existing Procedures & Conditions ratings, for a new total of twenty-two ratings.

American Heart Association

SBUH has once again been recognized by the American Heart Association (AHA) for its commitment to delivering high-quality patient care across cardiovascular and stroke focus areas. This year marks the 15th consecutive year (2010 –2025) receiving the Association’s Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus achievement award. For the seventh consecutive year, SBUH received the Get With The Guidelines® - Heart Failure Gold Plus quality achievement award. Both awards recognize SBM’s dedication to improving outcomes for patients, meaning reduced readmissions and more healthy days at home.

Stroke

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability, and accelerating recovery times. Get With The Guidelines® puts the expertise of the AHA and American Stroke Association (ASA) to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest research- and evidence- based guidelines.

In addition to this year’s Gold Plus achievement, SBUH earned the distinctions of Target: StrokeSM Elite Honor Roll Elite Plus, Advanced Therapy and, for the 5th consecutive year, Target: Type 2 DiabetesSM Honor Roll (2021–2025).

These accolades recognize the Cerebrovascular & Comprehensive Stroke Center’s dedication to providing the most up to date, evidenced-based care for patients who are hospitalized with a stroke. Time is crucial because the effectiveness of the clot buster drug diminishes with time, and faster treatment leads to better patient outcomes.

Patients arriving at SBUH experienced faster than average stroke treatment, including quick door-to-needle times and advanced therapies for individuals with large vessel occlusion (LVO) strokes. Those with type 2 diabetes, a critically high-risk population, receive expert care when hospitalized with heart failure, heart attack, or stroke at SBUH. Preventing the progression of the disease and its cardiovascular complications through a multi-faceted approach involving education, lifestyle modifications, quality improvement programs, and appropriate pharmacological management is Stony Brook’s top priority.

Suffolk County residents have access to specialized, life-saving care within the critical moments of a stroke, before they even get to the hospital, thanks to Stony Brook’s Mobile Stroke Unit Program. Serving over 40 different communities and working in collaboration with over 40 emergency medical service agencies throughout Suffolk, the program markedly accelerates the time required to make an accurate stroke diagnosis, allows for time-sensitive stroke therapies to be administered early, and allows for the transport of stroke patients directly to the most appropriate hospital for the level of care they require, the first time.

Heart Failure

According to the AHA, more than 6.7 million adults in the United States — a number that is



expected to increase to more than eight million by 2030 — are living with heart failure. Many patients with heart failure (HF) can lead a full, enjoyable life when their condition is managed with proper medications or devices and with healthy lifestyle changes. Despite the name, HF does not mean that the heart has stopped working — it means the heart is having a tough time pumping blood and oxygen throughout the body. While there is no cure for HF, patients can live a quality life by working with their health care team to create a plan that includes ongoing symptom monitoring and tailored treatment.

The Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy Center at SBM continues to be recognized for its excellence in patient care, having earned the AHA's Get With The Guidelines® – Heart Failure Gold Plus quality achievement award for the seventh consecutive year. This honor commends hospitals that consistently demonstrate an unwavering commitment to treating patients according to the latest evidence-based guidelines from the AHA.

The award further highlights Stony Brook's Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy Center's commitment to its patients, as evidenced by the Advanced Certification Award in Heart Failure and Ventricular Assist Device Certification from The Joint Commission since 2011 as well as the Healthgrades Five-Star Distinction for the Treatment of Heart Failure.

Resuscitation

Each year, more than 300,000 adults and children experience an in-hospital cardiac arrest. Survival from cardiac arrest depends on timely medical emergency team response and effective CPR.

Get With The Guideline® - Resuscitation was developed to help save lives of patients who experience in-hospital cardiac arrests by consistently following the most up-to-date research-based guidelines for treatment as outlined by the AHA. Guidelines include following protocols for patient safety, medical emergency team response, effective and timely resuscitation (CPR), and post-resuscitation care.

At SBUH, a specialized Shock Team has been created to leverage all advanced mechanical support devices, ensuring the highest possible survival rates for patients experiencing cardiac arrest. This team is part of the hospital's broader commitment to delivering exceptional, evidence-based care during critical emergencies.

SBUH is also nationally recognized for its commitment to improving cardiac arrest survival rates and received these awards:

- Target: Survival
- Target: CPR
- Get With The Guidelines® - Resuscitation Gold – Neonate/Infant
- Get With The Guidelines® - Resuscitation Silver – Newly Born
- Get With The Guidelines® - Resuscitation Bronze – Pediatric

SUNY Chancellor John B. King and Secretary to Governor Kathy Hochul, Karen Persichilli Keogh visited the Stony Brook Southampton campus



SUNY Chancellor John B. King and Secretary to Governor Kathy Hochul, Karen Persichilli Keogh visited the Stony Brook Southampton campus in August. Touring with university and SBM leadership, the team explored the campus, academic offerings, and projected growth of Stony Brook's continued influence on the community. A review of the projected hospital site for a new SBSH facility was discussed. In addition, Chancellor King toured the newly opened East Hampton Emergency Department and learned about the inner workings of the health system to navigate care on the south fork of Long Island.

Dr. Jason Kim and Dr. Steven Weissbart perform nation's first—and the East Coast's very first—Glean™ Urodynamics procedures

Dr. Jason Kim and Dr. Steven Weissbart of the Women's Pelvic Health and Continence Center at SBUH have successfully performed one of the nation's first—and the East Coast's very first—Glean™ Urodynamics procedures using Bright Uro's ambulatory urodynamic system.

This innovative diagnostic technology represents a significant advancement in the evaluation of bladder function for the estimated seventeen million people who experience daily bladder control problems in the United States. Unlike traditional urodynamic studies that require catheterization and observation in a clinical setting, Glean™ enables real-time data collection in an ambulatory, real-world environment—offering a more natural experience for patients while improving diagnostic accuracy, safety, and overall comfort. Patients diagnosed with lower urinary tract dysfunction (LUTD) and looking to tract symptoms that are difficult to capture during traditional in-office urodynamic testing can benefit from the systems wireless, catheter-free, monitoring of bladder pressure that is safe.

Dr. Jason Kim, Associate Professor of Urology and Director of the Women's Pelvic Health and Continence Center at SBUH, served as the national principal investigator for the FDA- approved trial of the Glean™ system. The results of this pivotal trial were recently published in the Journal of Endourology. As the second site in the country—and the first on the East Coast—to implement this state- of-the-art technology, SBUH continues to lead in advancing care for patients with pelvic floor disorders and lower urinary tract symptoms.

The Eastern Long Island Hospital Foundation hosts Dancing on the Dock

The Eastern Long Island Hospital Foundation (ELIHF), in proud partnership with Porto Bello Restaurant, hosted Dancing on the Dock celebration on Thursday, June 26, 2025. Proceeds from the event directly benefit SBELIH, supporting vital enhancements to patient care, technology, and services.

At the event, Dr. Wertheim announced that Quannacut remains the only program on Long Island staffed by addiction medicine specialists and will soon be home to a new Addiction Medicine Fellowship, launching in July, a vital investment in training the next generation of experts in substance use disorder treatment.

Additionally, Dr. Wertheim shared that SBELIH will welcome a new Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Alison Madden, in July, a board-certified gynecologic specialist who will begin seeing patients in Mattituck and the soon-to-be-completed medical offices in Greenport. In September, a new



Addiction and Family Medicine physician will also join the team, practicing alongside Dr. Jarid Pachter in Southold, further strengthening primary care access for local families.

Hampton Bays San Gennaro Festival

Stony Brook Southampton Hospital is the Lead Gold Sponsor of the 2025 Hampton Bays San Gennaro Festival to be held September 13 and 14 in Hampton Bays. As a title sponsor, SBSH is dedicating its support to honor the brave frontline workers who serve and protect our community every day — including members of the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), Ambulance Corps, Police Department, and other essential first responders.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Emergency Medicine:

Mobile Stroke Unit Responds to 10,000th call

On August 20, 2025, the Mobile Stroke Unit (MSU) achieved the milestone of responding to our 10,000th call since the program's inception. The two MSUs strategically placed along the LIE will be supplemented with a third unit in early 2026. MSU 3 will be stationed in Riverhead providing response to the Riverhead, North Fork, and South Fork communities. Simultaneously, SBELIH is seeking Primary Stroke Certification through the NYS Department of Health. The survey is expected to occur in Fall 2025.

Heart Institute

The Extracorporeal Life Support (ECLS) team has been recognized with the Path to Excellence in Life Support, achieving the Silver Level Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) Award. This designation recognizes ECLS programs that are based on established Extracorporeal Life Support Organization Guidelines. The ELSO assesses organizations to ensure demonstration of high- quality standards, use of specialized equipment and supplies, implementation of defined patient protocols and provision of advanced education for all staff members.

Neurosciences

SBUH hosted its annual Stoke Symposium to help care providers stay current with research and best practices across a variety of settings. The conference attracts providers from across the region who work to achieve continuing medical and nursing education hours, which are required when working in a Joint Commission certified stroke center. Organizers and speakers included interdisciplinary team members from Stony Brook, as well as other institutions, and drew hundreds of participants who joined either in-person or virtually. Attendee feedback remains positive year after year.

Alongside the Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Professions, hosted a conference in collaboration with the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH). The symposium was geared toward work force development, specifically for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. This conference was a result of an earlier charge by Provost, Dr. Carl Lejuez, focused on exploring academic opportunities to close the gap between the supply of behavioral health providers and the increasing demand for services. The event drew over two hundred participants from across

the state and beyond.

The NYS OMH approved SBELIH to open a provider-based, Article 31, licensed outpatient clinic in Riverhead, integrated within the existing substance use disorder clinic. This is the only OMH outpatient clinic license held by SBUH and will have a positive impact on access to care for residents living further east. It will serve ages 14+ and help to support the new school district initiative. The clinic is scheduled to open in the coming month.

SBELIH submitted its application to The Joint Commission to become a Primary Stroke Center (PSC). This is a required designation within NYS to receive patients via local emergency medical services (EMS) who are suspected of having a stroke. At the present time, SBELIH is bypassed by EMS ambulances who are required to go to Peconic Bay Medical Center, as they have the needed designation. This initiative has required an investment of time and resources, and the recruitment of a neurologist to cover SBELIH will help support long-term success. As SBELIH prepares for this anticipated review by The Joint Commission, the team is collaborating with experts across the health system to make progress toward a successful survey.

Nursing

The American Nurses Association of New York has accepted an abstract submitted by SBUH Nurses for a project titled “Reducing Indwelling Catheter Usage in Procedural Areas.” This work details a quality improvement project to reduce in-dwelling foley catheter utilization in patients undergoing ablation for atrial fibrillation. Also presenting at this conference will be Meghan Doelger, DNP, RN, CCRN, the Nurse Scientist for SBUH. Dr. Doelger has been selected to run a pre-conference workshop entitled “Evidence to Excellence: EBP/QI for Nurses at Every Level.” This will be an interactive workshop tailored to improve skills based upon participants' self-identified experience level with evidence-based practice.

The Department of Regulatory Affairs was “Chart Tracing & Chasing Continued Joint Commission Readiness,” as part of a panel during the Regulatory and Accreditation Forum on September 17 at the Vizient Connections Summit. The process of Virtual Chart Tracers was implemented last year to prepare for the upcoming Joint Commission Survey. It is now incorporated into SBM’s continued readiness plan.

Carolyn Santora MS, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ was a contributing author on an article published in the June 2025 issue of Nurse Leader. The article is titled “Understanding Leadership Today: The Evolution of the Chief Nursing Officer.” This article was a collaborative effort with other members of the Vizient Academic Medical Centers CNO Steering Committee. It reflects on the CNO role as it has evolved since the COVID-19 pandemic, exploring how navigating the challenges of the pandemic resulted in strategic partnerships to ensure quality. Lessons learned can guide an organization's mission and advance healthcare excellence.

Surgical Services

SBUH performed its first robotic joint replacement surgeries earlier this month with Dr. Nicholson, Director of Joint Replacement in the department of Orthopedics, leading the new program. We are proud to offer this option to patients choosing Stony Brook and as a component of the residency program.

SBUH continues to shift appropriate cases to the ambulatory surgery center to help create



capacity in the Main Operating Room for high complexity and emergent procedures. The team is safely performing outpatient ECT cases and retinal cases weekly, which creates capacity in the Main Operating Room and Interventional Radiology procedure rooms.

Surgical Services continue to grow. Earlier this month, construction began on the expanded procedural suite on the second floor of the Ambulatory Care Pavilion. Two additional endoscopy rooms and three procedure rooms to be completed next summer.

Women's/Children's

Stony Brook Children's purchased two SNOO Smart Sleeper bassinets beds to help support and care for our Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) babies. SNOOs have been popular in private homes and are now available in hospital environments. Their gentle rhythmic rocking, white noise and anchored swaddling are designed to comfort and soothe newborns, improve sleep, and decrease fussing while maintaining compliance with our safe sleep protocols. Acting like extra hands, nurses report that these specialized bassinets have freed up time for other clinical tasks while maintaining safe oversight of their newborn patients.

This academic year, Stony Brook Children's is pleased to welcome our first Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow. This new fellowship is key to the structure and care provided at our dedicated pediatric emergency department, fosters growth and development within the division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and contributes to the future of pediatric emergency care. We are hopeful that upon the completion of our new Pediatric Emergency Department, the number of fellows in the program will grow with the size of the space in which we care for our patients.

Dr. Caitlin Waters and Dr. Gabrielle Gossner in the Department of OBGYN and GYN performed the first robotic assisted surgery at Stony Brook Southampton in June. Dr. Waters is a member of the Department's Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (MIGS) team and Dr. Gossner specializes in gynecologic cancers, suspected malignancies and treatments in advanced laparoscopy and robotic surgical techniques. We are excited about this new opportunity for both surgeons and patients in the east end of long island and are grateful for the partnership with our peers at SBSH.

Human Resources

Employee and Physician Engagement Survey Planning

The Human Resources team developed a communication plan to highlight key improvements in response to employee feedback from the 2023 survey. The plan supports transparency and continued engagement as SBM prepares for the upcoming September 2025 survey.

Each month, we focus on a specific theme that reflects employee priorities and our commitment to continuous improvement: Culture of Respect, Feeling Valued and Appreciated, Culture of Safety, Staffing, Compensation

A multi-pronged approach is leveraged to spotlight the SBM's meaningful work including daily huddles, leader rounds, SCALA presentations, town hall meetings, HealthBeat, and other communication channels. Our goal is to ensure employees feel heard and recognize their feedback driving positive change.



Recruiting and Retention

Voluntary Turnover rates remain well below the industry average of 15%.

Job vacancy rates remain below the industry average of 19%.

Patient Experience

New Health Equity surveys were implemented as part of Putting Safety First rounds to assess and improve services for patients with limited English proficiency and prepare for our upcoming re-certification.

New tableau dashboards with updated metrics were launched for The Pediatric Emergency Department and Easthampton Emergency Department.

16 South received the Quarterly Patient Experience Award for increasing the Overall Rating HCAHPS metric by 30.5 points.

The Concierge Team facilitated visitation support for over 47,000 visitors this month.

The first edition of the Patient Experience Division newsletter, “PX Page” launched to increase communication across Departments, highlight initiatives, and recognize staff.

Over eighty staff members at Stony Brook Southampton, including the Easthampton location, attended training in Compassionate Connected Care.

New resident education during orientation was expanded to include Patient Experience and Compassionate Connected Care training facilitated by Dr. Jonathan Buscaglia and Nicole Rossol.

Updated welcome information for patients regarding parking, visitation and other resources is now available on all units. Information is now consistent, health literate and available in Spanish.

We started the inaugural Patient Experience Student Intern Program and were fortunate to have two Healthcare Summer Interns, Dominick Delio and Abigail Savage.

Lady Yulieth Galindo Agudelo, our medical interpreter, began in The Cancer Center position funded by The Valerie Fund.

Two Bereavement Groups will begin with our Chaplaincy Bereavement Coordinator in September at Lake Grove and Commack locations.

Facilities

The Pediatric Emergency Department construction will begin in Fall 2025. The goal is to double the size of the space, which will include ten additional exam rooms and a pediatric trauma bay.

The curtainwall project continues, with scaffolding moving down the south tower floors. Patient moves have been carefully coordinated for the Medical Intensive Care Unit to ensure patient safety.