



THE CUPOLA

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Update on Bassett's General Surgery Residency Program

By Joon K. Shim M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.



Dr. Joon K. Shim

I began my position as a general surgery residency program director on January 26, 2021, after the COVID virus made its impact on our healthcare systems. Before I took over the position, while still living in Ohio but committed to Bassett, I began connecting with my new residents virtually to start building rapport with them. The workflow that these residents were experiencing was drastically altered from the norm. During much of the pandemic, we had to conserve medical equipment,

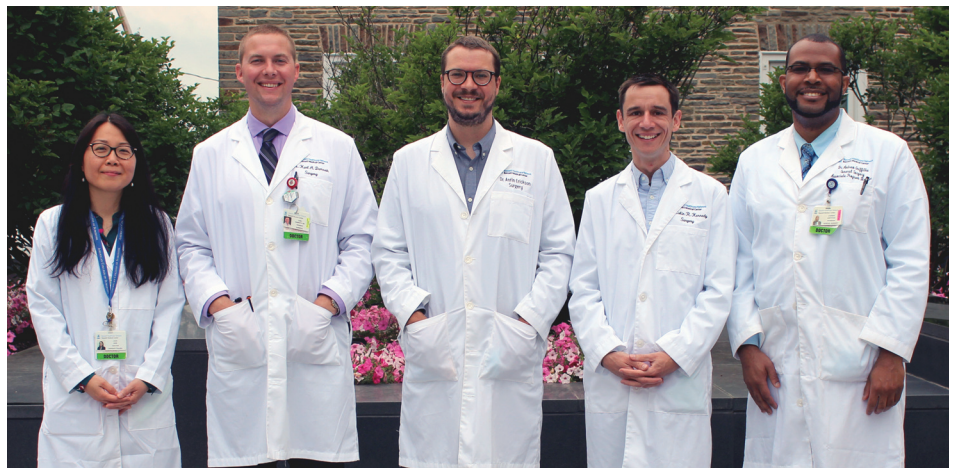
PPE, and staff. Like many hospitals nationally, Bassett had canceled elective cases impacting the resident operative and educational experience. Understandably the physical, mental, and emotional stress was high for trainees. Unfortunately, enforced social distancing reduced many of the existing support mechanisms for our surgical residents. This is how I started my role as a program director at Bassett.

Less than two months after I began, we received ACGME citations from the prior survey. In response, we prioritized addressing the specifics that led to these citations. The program staff and faculty worked together to find creative

solutions to increased educational hours in balance with service hours. I strived to cultivate open and transparent relationships with the surgical residents and instituted weekly meetings with each along with mentoring and coaching to help ensure their success.

To foster a diverse and inclusive workforce in our program, we have undertaken systematic recruitment and retention efforts. National colleagues were retained to assess our application review process and to help us understand residency demographics here as benchmarked against the rest of the country. We engaged key stakeholders to gain support for

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L to R: Drs. Joon Shim (program director) with the three graduating surgeons: Karl Damroth, Anfin Erickson, Colin Kennedy, and Andrew Griffiths (associate program director)

Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

As we are enjoying the relaxing days of summer in central New York, this *Cupola* offers many reminders that it is the time of year when medical school graduates are starting their residencies, and residents are moving onto new positions and fellowships.

In this issue, you will discover where our graduates are headed next in their careers. If you work at one of their new institutions, please make a point to introduce yourself and reconnect around Bassett and Cooperstown. Also, the main article provides an update on the Surgical Residency Program at Bassett. Under the leadership of Dr. Joon Shim, it remains forward-looking and continues to train residents to be leaders in rural surgery.



Dr. James A. Murray

Also in this issue, we are saddened to share the obituaries of two alumni: Dr. L. Andrew Rauscher who enjoyed a career as an anesthesiologist at Bassett, and Dr. Norm Freund, who passed away unexpectedly. Norm was my intern, a friend, and since graduation has worked for the Bassett Healthcare Network.

Against this backdrop of losses, as well as new beginnings, Bassett Hospital celebrates having opened its doors 100 years ago. This milestone serves as a reminder that we are connected to each other and a tradition of commitment to academically driven health care.

Stay well and stay in touch. ■

The Cupola is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett's Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

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Walter Franck Excellence Award



Raquel Rosen, M.D.

Attending Raquel Rosen, M.D., is the 2022 recipient of Bassett Healthcare Network's most prestigious recognition for a physician, the Walter A. Franck Physician Excellence Award. The award was established to honor rheumatologist Walter A. Franck, M.D., who retired from Bassett in 2014 after more than four decades of distinguished service. This award recognizes a physician who emulates the lifelong career traits he embodied — service to patients, students, colleagues, and the community. Physicians are nominated by their peers and the award recipient is determined by a vote of Bassett physicians.

Rosen is an attending nephrologist and has been at Bassett since 1998. She completed her medical degree at the State University of Tamaulipas School of Medicine in Mexico. She completed an internship at Cornell University

School of Medicine/St. Barnabas Hospital and her residency at New York Medical College/Metropolitan Hospital Center after which she served a fellowship at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine/New York University Medical Center. She is certified in hypertension by American Board of Hypertension and in internal medicine with a subspecialty in nephrology by American Board of Internal Medicine.

According to David Griger, D.O., and president of the Medical Staff, "Being chosen for this award by her peers is a truly meaningful honor." Rosen's name will be added to those of the prior award winners on the plaque hanging near the entrance to the Clark Auditorium. A grant of \$4,000 will be designated to the Bassett program or initiative of her choice and she will receive an engraved plaque at the July Medical Staff meeting.

Previous winners of this award have been Shep Friedman, M.D.; Kai Mebust, M.D.; Chris Kjolhede, M.D.; Raul Monzon, M.D.; Bernadette Ryan, M.D.; James Dalton, M.D.; and Erik Reisenfeld, M.D. ■

Columbia-Bassett Program Hosts Virtual Graduation

On May 15, preceding the formal graduation ceremony, there was a virtual graduation honoring the Columbia-Bassett Class of 2022. This event was attended by the graduates, their families, and several faculty members, and included an address by Thomas Insel, M.D., a psychiatrist and neuroscientist, who has been a national leader in mental health research, policy, and technology.

Each year the graduating class recognizes one faculty member who exemplifies the traits that students hope to embody in the future. These traits might include dedication to teaching, patient care, scholarship, and probity. The 2022 recipient of the Cupola Award to the Columbia-Bassett Teacher of the Year is Alan Kozak, M.D., medicine clerkship director.

Congratulations to the graduating members of the Columbia-Bassett Class of 2022.

Matthew Adan (Internal Medicine) Massachusetts General Hospital
Jamie Aron (Emergency Medicine) Massachusetts General Hospital

Devin Beecher (Family Medicine) Keck Medicine of University Southern California
Alexander Bulteel (Internal Medicine) Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Samuel Burnim (Pediatrics) Children's Hospital-Los Angeles
Kelsey Clayman (Emergency Medicine) Maimonides Medical Center
Joseph Cornett (Medicine-Pediatrics) University of North Carolina Hospitals
Kerry Filtz (Surgery-General) Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital
Liam Gallagher (Otolaryngology) University of Minnesota Medical School
Liam Heneghan (Internal Medicine) Thomas Jefferson University
Kenneth Hubbell (Internal Medicine) University of California – San Francisco
Julie (Ryan) Huff (Family Medicine) Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
Martha Renn (Family Medicine) NYP Hospital – Columbia University Medical Center ■

Golden Awards Announced

The 2022 Golden Apple Awards were presented at the year-end celebrations of the Departments of Medicine and Surgery. The internal medicine residents selected Bruce Kramer, M.D., intensivist; and the surgical residents chose M. Bernadette Ryan, M.D.; Ethan Talbot, M.D. general surgeons; and Anthony Ferrara, M.D., otolaryngologist.

Golden Stethoscope Awards, given by medical students and residents to a senior resident for excellence in teaching, were presented to

Levi Smucker, M.D., Surgery resident; and Anjeela Kadel, M.B., B.S., Medicine resident.

Also, each year the students of the Columbia-Bassett (C-B) Medical School Program recognize two residents who best exemplify dedication to teaching, mentorship, and patient care. Called the Cupola Award, this year Levi Smucker, M.D., Surgery resident and Sittinun Thangjui, M.D., Medicine resident were selected as recipients of this award. ■



Surgery residents participating in a suturing lab in the active learning center.

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targeted recruitment strategies. As a result, we changed our interview process to broaden faculty involvement and to standardize questions for interviewees to eliminate bias. The collection and analysis of incoming residency demographics will help us evaluate whether these interventions are effective as we move forward in the next recruitment cycle.

In the past two years, our surgical residency program has been enriched by a range of nationally known speakers who have presented grand rounds on topics including diversity in the workforce, when, why and how to give constructive feedback, trauma care, surgical palliative care, rural surgery, social determinants of health, gratitude as a leadership strategy, as well as professionalism. Presenting guest faculty have come from Columbia University, Harvard, Ohio State, Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania, UMass, and University of Texas.

To help prepare the residents for the certifying exam of the American Board of Surgery, we began monthly mock orals with two faculty members for our residents. In addition, we have an annual mock oral exam for residents with six faculty members reviewing 12 cases for each resident. This is our

commitment to their success. Of note, our program has achieved a 100-percent pass rate for the past two years for all first-time examinees on both the general surgery qualifying (written) examination (QE) and general surgery certifying (oral) examination (CE). Bassett is one of three programs out of 26 New York general residency programs that consistently achieves a 100-percent pass rate for both qualifying and certifying examinations.

The program faculty has worked together to identify cultural issues that may be encountered in the surgical experience and established best practices to address these within residency training. Topics vary and include implicit bias, gender schemas, imposter syndrome, sustaining diversity and other subjects.

Leadership development has increasingly been recognized as an important component of general surgery residency education. However, to date, there has been no research examining leadership development in rural surgery where it may also play a role in recruiting rural surgeons and decreasing the health disparities of rural populations. At Bassett, we conducted focus groups to assess our program's need for leadership development. In response, our program offered a longitudinal course which met nine times for two-hours each month. The first five surgical residents completed this training and one of our residents presented our research work at the 17th Annual Academic Surgical Congress.

We continue to expand educational opportunities for our residents in the active learning center with dedicated ultrasound equipment, suturing, laparoscopic stapling, hemostatic agents, negative pressure wound therapy, open anastomosis, and vascular technical skills. We are currently working with the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) to create a remote testing center for fundamentals of laparoscopic surgery. Also, we are working on making sure our residents receive certificates and image portfolios for cardiac and lung ultrasound images along with focused assessment with sonography in trauma (FAST). All our senior residents attend the Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASSET) course to prepare for Level 1 traumas at either Shock Trauma in Baltimore or Cook County in Chicago.

In May 2022, we received the most recent ACGME survey results. Completed in March of 2022, we had a 100-percent response rate from 17 surgical residents. Positive highlights include 86 percent of our residents feel very positive regarding the overall evaluation of our residency program and 94 percent of our residents would choose the Bassett Surgery

Residency Program again. These are the highest marks we have received in the history of our residency program. We are compliant in resources, professionalism, patient safety/teamwork, faculty teaching and supervision, educational content, diversity/inclusion, evaluation, and clinical experience/education (including 100-percent compliant in meeting work standards). All the metrics of Bassett Surgery Residency Program were well above the national means in this year's results. We are very proud of this accomplishment.

I remain excited about the future of our residency program as we continue to become one of the national leading surgical residency programs that train the next generation of surgeons. I feel grateful to serve as program director to our deeply committed Bassett residents. ■



Surgical residents earlier in 2022. Front row (L-R) Drs. Elizabeth Jacob, Alex Kurtz, Eunice Yang, Kristen Laaman, Rosalynn Nguyen, Lydia Rafferty, Rahima Khatun, Ashleigh Martinez, Sean Morton, and Prince Morkeh. Back row (L-R) Drs. Michael Damiani, Vrutant Patel, Anne Young, Emily Sippel, Levi Smucker, and Joon Shim, program director.

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming!

1970s

Ross Zumwalt, M.D.

(Rotating intern 1971-72, Pathology intern 1972-73) writes, "I have recently taken a new position (last fall) at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., as a senior associate consultant in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. Duties involve supervision of hospital autopsies and performance and supervision of forensic autopsies for Southeast Minnesota."

1990s

Francis Nolan, M.D.

(Transitional Year resident 1990-91) has completed an adventure travel book titled *Doc Down Under — An American ED Doc's Family Adventures in Australia and New Zealand*. It's all set for publication on Kindle/Amazon in the end of July. It's the engaging story of his six-year family odyssey from upstate New York to living, working, and traveling in Australia and New Zealand.

The book is free for those who have Kindle Prime, and there will also be print-on-demand paperback and hard cover options. Nolan shared, "If you've ever dreamed of leaving your current life/career far behind, and risking it all for such a sea change,

this is the story for you! It might also be insightful to overseas executive recruiters, to gain understanding of the issues your clients may have."

Manuel J. Chaknis, M.D., M.S.

(Transitional Year resident 1992-93) He sends greetings from Atlanta and writes, "I am finishing year 25 of ophthalmology practice with, hopefully, many more to go. I touched base with several of my former Bassett colleagues from the 1992-93 training year in June 2020, soon after the COVID pandemic began. This is the follow up to remind all to please come and join house staff and attendings from then, hopefully next October 2023, during the anticipated next Bassett Family Reunion. I really look forward to seeing everyone and catching up!"

2000s

Bassett alumni Elizabeth (Buttrill) Murray, D.O.

(Internal Medicine resident 2003-04) Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Galisano Children's Hospital, Rochester N.Y., and Philip Heavner, M.D. (Attending pediatrician 2005-19) Pediatrician, Guthrie, Big Flats, N.Y., are two of six New York physicians featured in a public service announcement released by the N.Y.S. Department of Health with

testimonials regarding the safety of vaccinations for children. It can be seen on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v09HjyDjd7Y>



Dr. Katrina Harris Taylor with her extended family vacationing at Disney World.

Katrina (Harris) Taylor, D.O.

(Internal Medicine resident 2002-05, chief resident 2005-06) Since leaving Cooperstown, she has made her home in southern Vermont. She was married in 2010, and in 2014, she and her husband, Brandon welcomed their first child, a son named Xander, followed by Ian in 2016, and Kaylee in 2018. She described all three as unique, independent spirits that keep them laughing and exhausted. Her career path has included primary care, hospitalist medicine, and leadership roles as medical staff president and medical staff quality officer at Springfield Medical Care Systems. In 2020 she accepted a position as CMO for the Federally Qualified Health Center, now called North Star Health. She shares, "I work with a great team of people who care about

wellness and community but the financial and workforce needs in healthcare today definitely make it challenging."

Luis Ocegueda, M.D.

(Surgery intern and resident 2005-11, Attending surgeon 2012-present) has been appointed interim chief of the Department of Surgery. He's been a surgeon at Bassett Medical Center since 2012, where he specializes in colon and rectal surgery. For the past three years, he served as medical director at Little Falls Hospital and as associate chief of surgery.

2010s

Sylvie Stacy, M.D.

(Transitional Year resident 2011-12) became board certified in addiction

medicine and received the William Kane Rising Star Award from the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Brian Miller, M.D.

(Transitional Year resident 2013-14) joined the American Enterprise Institute as a nonresident fellow.

Matthew Gilbert, D.O., M.P.H.

(Internal Medicine resident 2003-06, chief resident 2006-07) was promoted to professor of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes at The University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine. He also serves as the program director for the Fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. He lives in Essex Junction, Vt., with his wife Margaret and two daughters Hannah (age 17) and Molly (age 13).

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Dr. Francis Nolan pictured with his family traveling in New Zealand.

Family from page 4



Dr. Karn Wijarnpreecha

Karn Wijarnpreecha, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 2015-18) has officially graduated from transplant hepatology fellowship at the University of Michigan and will be starting as a transplant hepatologist with clinical associate professor academic title at the University of Arizona-Phoenix this July.

Samuel Tesfalidet, M.D. (Transitional Year resident 2017-18) is graduating diagnostic radiology residency from the University of Colorado and will continue his fellowship training in interventional radiology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He is also getting married to his long-time fiancé Elinore Van Sant in Colorado this August.

2020s

Michael DeRogatis, M.D. (Surgical resident 2020-21) He and his wife are living in

Bethlehem, Penn., where he's doing an orthopedic surgery residency at St. Luke's Hospital. He was elected to an editorial board position for *AAOS Now*, which is a journal for the Orthopaedic Academy. He wrote, "We've also been very fortunate to travel this year. We went to Hawaii to take wedding pictures since we were unable to have our wedding as planned in Mexico due to COVID. We also drove cross country from California to Pennsylvania stopping at many cool places including Sedona, Albuquerque, Austin, Birmingham, and Nashville. We visited family in Florida which was a nice break from the cold. More recently, I did a hiking trip with my dog Whiskey through the Smoky Mountains. We really miss our Bassett family and will be visiting there soon now that it's warmer."

Anke Wang, M.D.

(Transitional Year resident 2020-21) is now completing the first year in her advanced program in Anesthesiology at New York University Grossman School of Medicine. She reports that life has changed since leaving Bassett. A smaller living space in NYC required adjusting and lots of downsizing, but it didn't prevent her from adopting two new cats. Wang welcomes "anyone stopping by the NYC area (or moving here) to shoot her a text if you want to catch up!" ■

BASSETT LOOKS BACK



We have just passed the 100th Anniversary of the opening to the public of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital!

As reported in *The Otsego Farmer* of June 9, 1922, "Large numbers of the people of Cooperstown visited the new Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital when that magnificent institution was opened to the public (on June 3). Edward Severin Clark, the donor, and Dr. Bassett for whom the institution has been named, and who is the chief of staff, received the guests... a fine example of colonial architecture rivaling in its proportions the great buildings of the land, yet homelike in its impression and in entire harmony with the purpose for which it was built." Dr. Bassett is believed to have been the first woman physician in the United States to be named a hospital chief of staff. This illustration depicts her as she would have appeared in 1922. ■

Co-Chiefs in Behavioral Health and Psychiatry Named

James Anderson, Ph.D., (Clinical psychologist 2016-present) and Sarah Ricketts, M.D., (Internal Medicine resident 1993-94, Attending psychiatrist 1997-98) have been named as co-chiefs in Behavioral Health and Psychiatry.

Anderson, a clinical psychologist on the medical staff since 2016, has led Bassett efforts at integrating behavioral health and addiction treatments in primary care. He served as a medical director for the Bassett Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program. He received his Ph.D. from Western Michigan University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine.

Ricketts is returning to her roots at Bassett. Between medical school and psychiatry residency training at Columbia University, she was a preliminary medicine resident at Bassett. She also served as an attending physician in psychiatry here from 1997 to 1998. Ricketts has led clinical, teaching and research programs at Dartmouth Medical School and Columbia University. Most recently she directed programs to treat behavioral health problems in underserved urban populations through integration with primary care practice at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. ■

Residents Announce Future Plans

Members of the house staff have completed their training at Bassett and moved on to new endeavors. Departing residents, their programs at Bassett, and their plans:

Gaurav Cheraya, M.D., (Transitional Year) Radiology Residency, Bridgeport Hospital, Bridgeport, Conn.

Yuri Choi, M.D., (Internal Medicine) General Internal Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, N.Y.

Muhammad Daniyal, M.B., B.S., (Internal Medicine) Hospitalist, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

Karl Damroth, M.D., (General Surgery) Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., followed by a Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

Anfin Erickson, M.D., (General Surgery) General Surgery Practice, Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington, Maine

Sugam Gouli, M.B., B.S., (Internal Medicine) Hospitalist, Rochester General Hospital, Rochester, N.Y.

Anjeela Kadel, M.B., B.S., (Internal Medicine) Hospitalist, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

Arpitha Kamala Nanjappa, M.B., B.S., (Internal Medicine) Hospitalist, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas

Pratul Karki, M.B., B.S., (Internal Medicine) Hospitalist, MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup, Wash.

Colin Kennedy, M.D., (General Surgery) General Surgery Practice, Winona Health, Winona, Minn.

Azkie Khan, M.B., B.S., (Internal Medicine) Hospitalist, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

Zachary Kiss, D.O., (Transitional Year) Radiation Oncology Residency, Fox-Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Penn.

Logan Koubek, D.O., (Transitional Year) Anesthesiology Residency, Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, Penn.

Jason Lau, M.D., (Transitional Year) Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Robert Wood Johnson-Rutgers Health, New Brunswick, N.J.

Marat Mavliutov, M.D., (Internal Medicine), Internal Medicine Practice, Cape Cod Hospital, Hyannis, Mass.

Varun Mehta, M.D., (General Surgery) Internal Medicine Residency, Arnot-Ogden Medical Center, Elmira, N.Y.

Eric Mishkin, M.D., (Transitional Year) Radiology Residency, Albany Medical Center, Albany, N.Y.

Mwengwe Ndhlovu, M.D., (Internal Medicine) General Internal Medicine Practice, Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans, La.

Justin Ongkingco, D.O., (Transitional Year) Family Medicine Residency, United Memorial Medical Center of Rochester Regional Health, Batavia, N.Y.

Panadeekarn Panjawatanan, M.D., (Internal Medicine) Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Fellowship, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, N.H.

Nikita Rajbhandari, M.D., (Transitional Year) Diagnostic Radiology Residency, AMITA Health/Saint Francis Hospital, Evanston, Ill.

Harshith Thyagaturu, M.B., B.S., (Internal Medicine) Cardiovascular Diseases Fellowship, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.

Christine Yang, M.D., (Transitional Year) Radiation Oncology Residency, Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif.

Ratdanai Yodsuwan, M.D., (Internal Medicine) Internal Medicine Practice, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa ■



Medicine residents: Drs. Muhammad Daniyal, Yuri Choi, Jimmy Wang, Arpitha Kamala Nanjappa, Sugam Gouli, Anjeela Kadel, Ratdanai Yodsuwan, Panadeekarn Panjawatanan, and Pratul Karki.



Surgical residents: Drs. Karl Damroth, Anfin Erickson, and Colin Kennedy.



Transitional Year residents: Drs. Gaurav Cheraya, Nikita Rajbhandari, Christine Yang, Jason Lau, Logan Koubek, Justin Ongkingco, Zachary Kiss, and Eric Mishkin.

IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS



Norman G. Freund, M.D.

Norman G. Freund, M.D.

Norman G. Freund, M.D., age 56, died unexpectedly in the Adirondacks on May 22, 2022, with his loving wife Dorothy at his side. Originally from Detroit, Norm had graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and as a battlefield Captain received the Bronze Star after being wounded in combat in Kuwait's Desert Storm in 1991.

He received his medical degree from the University of Debrecen in Hungary, which included clerkships at Bassett Hospital, and then completed a Medicine residency (2001-2003)

at Bassett, followed by a career as attending physician in Bassett's Herkimer Clinic (2004-2008) and then attending physician (hospitalist) at Little Falls Hospital until his sudden demise.

As stated by Dr. Ibrahim. "Norm made an outsized impression. Physically imposing, he was kind and gentle, particularly at the bedside. His capacity for work was literally without bounds." Accolades have poured in from many colleagues, such as "Norm will be deeply missed, he was one of the most earnest and affable colleagues one could hope for."

On the personal side Norm was united in marriage to Dorothy Connor on May 23, 2009, at Inlet, N.Y. They created a beautiful life together, doing the things that Norm loved the most; spending time with their children, biking, hiking, and traveling in their camper van. His survivors include wife Dorothy, his mother Dorothea Bitterlich of Herkimer, their children, and an extended family.



L. Andrew (Andy) Rauscher, M.D.

L. Andrew Raucher, M.D.

L. Andrew (Andy) Rauscher, M.D. died after an extended illness on May 3, 2022. He was born in London, England on February 14, 1943. He obtained his M.B. from the University of London in 1963 and his M.B.B.S. from University College Medical School in 1966. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

He emigrated to the United States and completed a pediatric cardiac anesthesiology fellowship, and in 1975 became a member of the Department of Anesthesiology of the

University of California. In 1980, he was appointed as Bassett's anesthesiologist-in-chief. He assumed numerous other leadership roles for Bassett, and after stepping down as chief in 2001, he became medical director and a member of the Medical Board. He was a Fellow of the American College of Anesthesiologists and Associate Clinical Professor of Anesthesiology of Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons. He left Bassett Hospital in 2012.

Dr. Rauscher was married to Jocelyn Alice (Rauscher) in 1971; she died in April 2020 after their marriage of 48 years. He is survived by five children and a large extended family. ■

COVID from page 8

fight against COVID was devastating. But we also have a better appreciation for each other. The relationships that are fostered in a crisis are invaluable."

As terrible as it is to lose a life, there were more wins than losses in this pandemic and as they saved lives, sometimes against all odds, that recharged the group's collective battery.

"We were and still are a team," says Huntsman. "It took people working together, finding innovative ways to provide care in the worst conditions."

"COVID taught us a lot about what we knew, it taught us a lot about what we didn't know, and we came out of that tunnel a lot stronger than when we went in," observes Dr. Reginald Knight, physician and chief integration officer for the Bassett Healthcare Network.

"We were all in the foxhole together," agrees Petersen. "We learned we had to stick together, and we made mountains move and that was pretty magical."

There have been some changes since the pandemic first began. Nadine Huntsman, who has been with Bassett for 12 years, transitioned to the position of manager of the catheterization lab at Bassett. She and her husband Isaac's son Lincoln, who was born amid COVID, is now two years old.

Barbara Petersen is a nurse educator in the emergency department helping to bring along the next generation of critical care nurses, her way of "paying it forward" she says.

And Julie Hall says she is counting down to the day when the Bassett Healthcare Network can declare, for the first time, there is not a single COVID patient hospitalized.

Courage. Commitment. Caring. That is the legacy of Bassett caregivers. It began 100 years ago when the hospital was founded, and today against COVID that legacy is stronger than ever. ■

Physician Employment Opportunities in the Bassett Healthcare Network

Thinking of a career move? Do you know another physician seeking a position in an award-winning network of six hospitals and 30 regional sites? Consider these openings in Central New York and Cooperstown.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Anesthesiology | Neurology |
| Cardiology - Non-Invasive | Neurosurgery |
| Critical Care | Orthopedics - Hand and Trauma |
| Director, Bassett Research Institute | Pediatrics |
| Director, Center for Stress Health | Psychiatry - Inpatient and Outpatient |
| Family Medicine | Pulmonology |
| Hematology Oncology | Radiation Oncology |
| | Urology |

For more information visit:
<https://www.bassett.org/careers/physicians-and-advanced-practice-clinicians>
 or call Medical Staff Recruitment at 607-547-6982.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Facing COVID with Courage, Commitment, Caring

Twenty-seven months ago, as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning to creep north in New York State, claiming more lives than health care workers could save in some parts of the U.S., Bassett Healthcare Network caregivers prepared for the worst, but hoped for the best.

“Knowing it would reach us in a short amount of time, I volunteered to work strictly in the COVID unit,” recalls Barbara Petersen, who has been a critical care nurse for 30 years. “It wasn’t a time to retreat. This is my community, my people, they are my family, and having worked in critical care my entire career I felt equipped to take on this challenge.”

It was an unprecedented time. Across the network, COVID would test Bassett caregivers like nothing ever before.

“So little was known about the virus. It was terrifying,” says Nadine Huntsman, who was a nurse manager in the intensive care unit (ICU) where she worked alongside her husband Isaac, also a nurse. Nadine was pregnant at the beginning of the pandemic and couldn’t work directly with COVID patients, but Isaac frequently did.

“We were so cautious, removing all the clothes we wore to work and wiping down our hospital badges, watches, anything that might possibly be contaminated. We didn’t see our families for so long, even during our baby’s first Christmas.”



L to R: Barbara Petersen, critical care nurse and emergency department nurse educator; Nadine Huntsman, R.N., manager of catheterization laboratory at Bassett Medical Center, and Julie Hall, R.N., chief nursing officer at Bassett Medical Center.

Petersen isolated herself from her spouse who was battling cancer at the time. They slept on opposite sides of the house and for 24 months, she would strip her clothes off in the garage, throw them in the laundry and shower to avoid a “potential invasion of COVID into our home.”

Worse than the personal sacrifice was witnessing the distress of patients and families who couldn’t be together. It was haunting. Both Huntsman and Petersen still get emotional when trying to convey the impact of the pandemic on them professionally and personally.

“It’s the aftermath,” says Huntsman, who transferred out of intensive care to a new position because of the experience. “We weren’t able to have families at the bedside with a loved one who was dying. The suffering I saw changed the ICU experience for me.”

“We loved every single patient,” adds Petersen. “We worked so hard to save them all. We wanted to help people live, not just survive. We didn’t win every fight.”

It was emotionally and physically exhausting work that went on for days, months, years. It changed us.

“We definitely are not who we were prior to the pandemic,” notes Julie Hall, Bassett Medical Center’s chief nursing officer. “We care for people we know, and those times we lost the