



THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center
Cooperstown, New York

Spring 2024
Vol. XXVIII No. 1

Humanities Lecture Features Celebrated Physician

Bassett Healthcare Network is pleased to announce the inaugural David S. Svahn Humanities in Medicine Memorial Lecture. This event honors the dedication of the late Dr. David S. Svahn, a Bassett-trained resident and physician for the entirety of his 30-year career. (See the article on page 8 for more information about the establishment of this memorial which is underwritten by members of the Svahn family.)

The event features Dr. Michael LaCombe of Maine, cardiologist and storyteller. His presentation promises to be thought-provoking and entertaining. While visiting Bassett Medical Center, LaCombe will meet with residents and medical students to share his insights on medicine.

LaCombe is the author of over 100 peer-reviewed stories of medicine, and over a dozen books, including "Bedside: The Art of Medicine," a collection of fictional stories drawn from his experiences as a physician. In the book's preface, he states, "I have been a fortunate doctor, sitting as I have been in the front row of the drama of life. Here are some of the stories I have lived, stories of country medicine with lessons for the city as well." In addition to readings and lectures, theatrical performances of his stories



Dr. Michael LaCombe

have been taped and used for medical training in ethics and humanism.

"It is a great honor to host Dr. LaCombe. He is the ideal speaker for this humanities presentation honoring our own Dr. David Svahn," said Dr. Kai Mebust, Chief of the Department of Medicine for Bassett Medical Center. "Dr. LaCombe's commitment to his patients and his creative writings about people in the field of medicine reflect the values of compassionate care personified by Dr. Svahn."

LaCombe has been a visiting professor at universities around the world. A retired internist and cardiologist, he is a past president of the Harvard Medical School Alumni Council and has served as an associate editor of the "Annals of Internal Medicine" for the medical humanities sections for over 30 years. He has held positions on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Internal Medicine, on the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians, and on the advisory board of the Maine Scholar. He holds an Honorary Degree in Literature from the University of Southern Maine and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London. ■

The David S. Svahn Humanities in Medicine lecture is scheduled on Friday, May 24, 2024, at 7:30 A.M. in the Clark Auditorium at Bassett Hospital. Readers may access the live-streamed version of this presentation at: Bassett.org/LaCombe-Lecture

Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors



Dr. James A. Murray

Spring is in the air and it's evident in this issue of The Cupola. There is good news of Match Day results for both incoming residents and fellowships, and for the outgoing Columbia-Bassett medical students. Plus, we have much to share about upcoming events of interest including a humanities presentation by noted speaker Dr. Michael LaCombe in May that will be available to alumni on Zoom.

Personally, I am looking forward to our Alumni Association reunion in the fall. In addition to updates about Bassett, we'll be treated to a keynote speaker, a round of

IMY Talks (Bassett's version of idea-sharing sessions), social gatherings, and the opportunity to return to our medical roots in the beautiful village of Cooperstown. I urge you to mark your calendars for the first weekend in October and make your lodging reservations now.

As president of the Alumni Association, I want to extend our congratulations to Staci Thompson, who has been named president and CEO of Bassett Healthcare Network. She comes to Bassett with a solid background of healthcare administrative experience. I express our thanks to Dr. Tommy Ibrahim for his nearly four years of leadership.

There's more to read of alumni updates and hospital news. Enjoy this issue and please make plans to join our reunion in the fall. ■

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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The Cupola is published three times a year. Please send comments and news, including change of address information to: Editor, The Cupola, Office of Medical Education, Bassett Medical Center, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail cupola@bassett.org.

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2024 Residency/Fellowship Results Announced

All of Bassett's residency and fellowship programs had success in the 2024 Match through the National Resident Matching Program. The following is the roster of the appointments for the 2024-25 academic year.

General Surgery Residency

Laura Holton, D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Jacqueline Inglis, M.D., State University of New York Upstate Medical University
Alexis Kohlbeck, D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Matea Mezic, M.D., New York Medical College
Kristin Nesbitt, M.D., Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine at Utah
Nuttha Siriwatanakul, M.D., State University of New York Upstate Medical University

Internal Medicine Residency

Farhan Afridi, M.B., B.S., Khyber Medical College (Pakistan)
Katrina Corpuz, M.D., University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (Philippines)
Jeyavishnupriya Gopalakrishnan, M.B., B.S., Trichy SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (India)
Yi Hao, M.D., Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Andrew Hess, M.D., American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine
Saniah Khan, M.B., B.S., King Edward Medical University (Pakistan)
Unaib Memon, M.B., B.S., Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (Pakistan)
Ruvarashe Mupedziswa, M.D., American University of Antigua College of Medicine

Steve Nwokeocha, M.B., B.S., University of Nigeria Faculty of Medicine (Nigeria)
Nikita Srivalsan, M.D., American University of Antigua College of Medicine
Shalini Thiruvarduchelvam, M.D., Ross University School of Medicine (Barbados)
Trairat Unteng, M.D., Prince of Songkla University Faculty of Medicine (Thailand)
Sara White, D.O., University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine

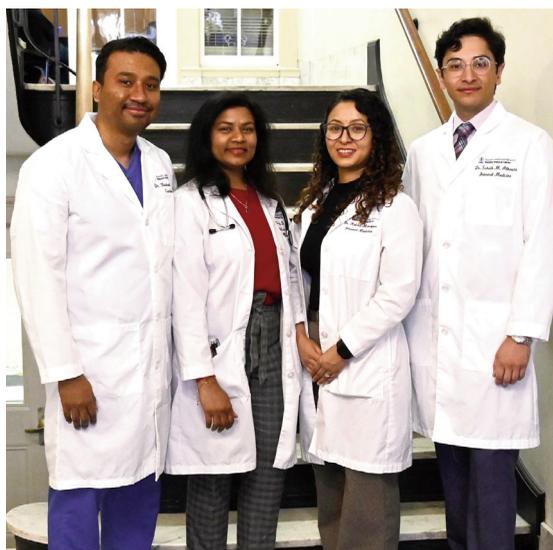
Transitional Year Residency

Mohammad-Kazem Ahmady, M.D., Medical University of the Americas (Nevis)
Jennifer Cha, M.D., Albany Medical College
Amanda Liberman, M.D., Yale School of Medicine
Tyler Petersen, M.D., Wayne State University School of Medicine
Jesse Randolph, M.D., Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at the University of Buffalo
Priya Rao, M.D., State University of New York Upstate Medical University
Aaron Ringle, M.D., Ross University School of Medicine (Barbados)
Taylor Zabel, M.D., Harvard Medical School
Morvarid Zehtab, M.B.B.Ch., Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship

Iqra Qamar, M.B., B.S., Faisalabad Medical University (Pakistan)
Dhan Shrestha, M.B., B.S., Nepalese Army Institute of Health Sciences College of Medicine (Nepal) ■

Bassett Residents Match into Fellowships



Bishesh Shrestha, M.B., B.S.; Gayatri Bondi, M.B., B.S.; Helina Maharjan, M.B., B.S.; and Sohaib Alkowni, M.D.

Four doctors completing their residency training received the following fellowship appointments:

Sohaib Alkowni, M.D. (Internal Medicine) Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Penn.
Gayatri Bondi, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine/Chief Resident) Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship, Marshall University, Huntington, W.V.
Helina Maharjan, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine) Rheumatology Fellowship, Albany Medical Center, Albany, N.Y.
Bishesh Shrestha, M.B., B.S. (Cardiovascular Disease) Interventional Cardiology Fellowship, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Neb.

Alumni Reunion Slated for October Weekend in Cooperstown

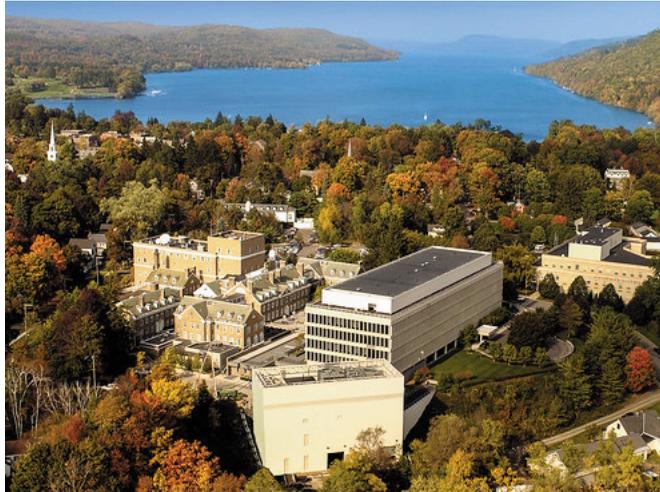
Once again, the Bassett Medical Alumni Association will gather for a reunion in Cooperstown on October 4 and 5, 2024. The event will offer participants the chance to explore current issues in medical education and health care, while reconnecting to the core of their medical training days at Bassett. Presenters will include Bassett alumni, medical staff, and faculty. Residents and medical students will be invited to provide alumni with insight into the present state of medical education and training here.

In addition to a presentation by a keynote speaker, Saturday will include a popular aspect from previous reunions. Dubbed "IMY Talks" these sessions are named in honor of Mary Imogene Bassett. Following a trend in the world of idea-sharing, these are intended to be "Innovative Mostly Medical Yarns." Speakers will offer succinct (no more than 12 minutes in length) creative talks on a range of topics.

Alumni and their family members may reconnect with former classmates, friends, and Bassett colleagues on Saturday evening at a social event planned at Brewery Ommegang.

Dr. Anush Patel, executive vice-president of the Alumni Association, encourages present and past medical staff, faculty, and alumni to participate in this special gathering. According to Patel, "This will be a pleasant opportunity to exchange ideas with dear classmates and friends, as well as a chance to learn about what is new in Medical Education at Bassett."

Save the dates October 4 and 5, 2024, for this special weekend. A complete schedule of activities, presentations and additional information will be forthcoming. ■



A Perfect Time to Be in Cooperstown

There is no better time to revisit Cooperstown than in the autumn. Travelers are encouraged to make reservations now. Several accommodations are holding rooms for those attending the weekend reunion.

The following hotels have reserved rooms for the dates of October 3, 4, and 5, 2024. Rooms will be held until 30 days prior, September 3, 2024, unless otherwise noted below. After this date, rooms are based on availability.

- Comfort Inn & Suites in Milford/Cooperstown (607) 286-7600
 - Best Western Cooperstown Inn & Suites (607) 547-7100
Rooms will be held until August 3.
 - Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Cooperstown (607) 547-8000. A 2-night stay is required on Friday and Saturday.
 - Holiday Inn Express Hotel Oneonta (607) 684-2000. A 2-night stay is required on Friday and Saturday.
 - Courtyard by Marriott Oneonta (607) 432-2200. A 2-night stay is required on Friday and Saturday.
- For more information about lodging options, visit the website: www.thisiscooperstown.com ■

Columbia-Bassett Class of 2024 Match

The 2024 class of the Columbia-Bassett program entered the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Main Residency Match this year. Please join us in congratulating these graduates on their success. The results are:

- Mary Carmack**, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Maine Medical Center
- Danielle Kroll**, Internal Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Jasmine (Chaparro) Largaespada**, Family Medicine, University of Chicago Medical Center
- Christopher McLaughlin**, Neurology, NYP Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center
- Alexander Northrop**, Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Adam Richter**, Medicine-Primary/HVMA, Massachusetts General Brigham & Women's Hospital
- Yong (Daniel) Shen**, Orthopedic Surgery, Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Aurora Sullivan**, Surgery-General, Icahn School of Medicine - Mount Sinai Hospital
- Peter Suwondo**, Internal Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine
- Anne-Sophie van Wingerden**, Obstetrics & Gynecology, UMass Chan Medical School
- Nicholas Waring**, Otolaryngology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
- Delaine Winn**, Medicine-Pediatrics, Yale-New Haven Hospital
Deferred: Elorm Yevudza ■

Save These Dates:
October 4 and 5, 2024

Bassett Healthcare Network
Bassett Medical Center

See our latest news and updates at Bassett Medical Alumni Association

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming!

1950s

Chuck Greenblatt, M.D.

(Rotating intern 1956-57) at 93 is suffering another Israeli war. He adds, "At the moment, none of my grandchildren are in Gaza, but in several weeks two will probably be back in. We are praying for a ceasefire, but our present government is hoping for a clear victory, which is hard to imagine." He continues to go into work and had two major articles on Alzheimer's disease published recently. These articles are available on PubMed using "Greenblatt Lathe" as search words.

John S. Davis, M.D.

(Medicine resident 1956-58, Attending physician 1964-95, Director of Medical Education 1980-95) relocated from the family home that he and his wife built in 1989 into the Clara Welch Thanksgiving Home in Cooperstown. He welcomes correspondence and visits from all alumni.

W.B. Greenough III, M.D.

(Intern 1959-62) is Emeritus at Johns Hopkins and remains active in its emeriti college. He recently shared his experiences as a scientist working with the U.S. Public Services in Pakistan during the 1960s treating patients with cholera and researching how to prevent its spread. The article appeared in the *Gastroenterology* in 2023, and it describes his continued work on the disease in later years of his career.

1970s

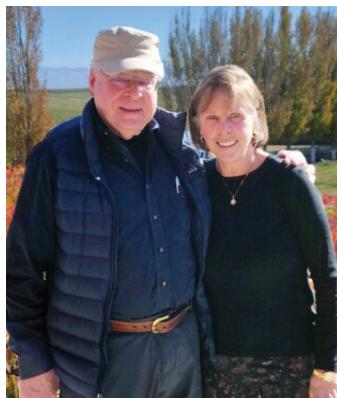
Dan Westphal, M.D.

(Internal Medicine resident 1973-75) shared that he has many great memories of teaching staff; Dr. Joseph Lunn, Drs. Herman, Svahn, Pollock and many others. He added, "Bassett provided great training for my fellowship in pulmonary medicine. I will finally retire after work-

ing as a Medical Director for Humana. My wife and I are planning to travel after my retirement."

Richard Yarger, M.D.

(Surgery resident 1976-79) and his wife Barbara celebrated their 49th anniversary this year.



Dr. Richard Yarger with his wife Barbara

1980s

Karen McShane, M.D.

(Flexible intern 1982-83, Attending Obstetrician/Gynecologist 1989-2012) retired in April 2023, although she continues to assist in urogynecology surgical procedures. She reports, "Retirement has been busy. I have a grandson who lives in Pittsfield, Mass., with my daughter Cynthia and her husband Zack. My son Brian and I manage two Airbnb's. I belong to the Saratoga Lake Sailing Club,



Dr. Karen McShane with daughter Cynthia



Dr. John Callahan's family (From l. to r.) His son Henry, a plebe midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy and his brother Eric, a junior at West Point, his daughter Claire, a West Point graduate and Cyber Security Officer in the Army, Callahan and his wife Tracy are in the middle, and their high school freshman Kate, and Naval Academy graduate Ensign Jack Callahan complete the photo.

and I volunteer at the Wood Theatre in Glens Falls. I enjoy going to the opera in Saratoga and other live music and theatre locally."

Rocco G. Ciocca, M.D.

(Surgery resident 1986-91) "after decades practicing as an academic vascular surgeon at teaching hospitals all across the country, I have decided to slow down a bit and I am currently the Medical Director for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine at Maine General Health in Augusta, Maine. I get to work with a great staff in a phenomenal facility. I also get to interact with the Family Medicine residents from the Maine-Dartmouth program. I am very fortunate."

1990s

Francis Nolan, M.D.

(Transitional Year resident 1990-91) is pleased to announce the publication of his second book, "The Mountain Hunters" on Amazon/Kindle, in all formats, worldwide in October 2023. The novella explores the high-risk worlds of Emergency Medicine and

wilderness hunting, survival, and air rescue in 1980s Alaska, and is based on his experiences in Emergency Medicine and as a U.S. Coast Guard flight crewmember.

John Callahan, M.D.

(Internal Medicine 1996-99) sends greetings from Syracuse. "I am currently an ex-hospitalist, but returned to Primary Care at the VA Hospital in Syracuse doing home visits as part of their Home-Based Primary Care Program. I still miss Bassett Hospital and all of the great memories from our time there." He shared this recent photo (above) of his family taken at Christmas.

2010s

Sylvie Stacy, M.D.

(Transitional Year resident 2011-12) is excited to report, she recently published the book, "50 Unconventional Clinical Careers for Physicians: Unique Ways to Use Your Medical Degree Without Leaving Patient Care." It is available from the American Association for Physician Leadership bookstore.

Family to page 5

Family from page 4

Jessica Carlson, M.D. (Surgery resident 2011-16) reports, "I recently got married! I am president of the medical staff at my hospital (Curry General Hospital, Gold Beach, Ore.). I survived breast cancer, and my husband Errol is a brain cancer survivor. We are living life to the fullest every day!"



Dr. Jessica Carlson and her husband Errol

Sarah Mader, D.O. (Internal Medicine resident 2015-18) After graduating from the Internal Medicine program in 2018, I spent three years practicing outpatient internal medicine in Geneva, N.Y. I moved to my hometown of Saranac Lake, N.Y. in September, 2021, and am now practicing part time in both Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake. In December of last year, my husband (Travis Farmer) and I welcomed our first son, Nicholas.



Dr. Sarah Mader with husband Travis and son Nicholas

Levi Smucker, M.D. (Surgery resident 2018-23) and family Rebecca, Ada (6), Lida (2) are living in Goshen, Indiana. Levi is working in a General Surgery private practice with a broad range of roles, including bariatric, vascular, colorectal, and endoscopy. He enjoys biking to work and likes to spend a lot of time with his patients in clinic. He has been practicing for oral exams by Zoom with **Elizabeth Jacob, M.D.** (Surgery resident 2018-23) and **Anne Young, M.D.** (Surgery resident 2017-23). While the family is thriving in

a great community, the Midwest's flat fields are a slight downgrade from the lakes and forests of Otsego County.

2020s

Luis Guinand, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 2022-23) is now a PGY-2 PM&R resident at Temple University in Philadelphia, Penn., and will be applying in Interventional Pain next year. He is doing well since leaving Bassett and missing it all too. He married in June, 2023, before moving from Cooperstown. ■



Dr. Levi Smucker and his family

Keep your alumni record up to date. Have you changed your email addresses, phone number or mailing address recently? Send your updated information to mary.wiswell@bassett.org

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Anesthesiologist | Internal Medicine - Primary Care Physician |
| Cardiologist - Non-Invasive, Heart Failure and/or EP Pulmonology | Nephrologist |
| Family Medicine Physician- Sherburne, Andes, Sidney, Norwich, Hamilton, Bassett Gender Wellness | Neurologist |
| Hospitalist | Pediatrician - Herkimer or Oneonta |
| | Radiologist - Diagnostic and Interventional |
| | Radiation Oncologist |
| | Urologist |

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

**IN MEMORIAM:
BASSETT REMEMBERS**

Audrey Ashley

Audrey Waite Ashley, age 98, of Kendal at Ithaca, died on March 28, 2024. She married Dr. Charles Allen Ashley in 1948. After he completed his military service as assistant chief of Pathology at Walter Reed Army Hospital, they relocated to Cooperstown where he was employed as an attending Pathologist at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. In 1967, Dr. Ashley was appointed director of the Bassett Hospital. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1984.

Together, the Ashleys were active in all aspects of the Cooperstown community. Mrs. Ashley was especially known for her efforts to extend a warm welcome to incoming hospital staff and residents. They entertained regularly in their home on the hospital's behalf. In 1999, the Ashleys moved to Ithaca, N.Y. Dr. Ashley died in 2001.

A full obituary can be found on obituary.com ■

William F. Streck Fellowship Awards Announced



Dr. Timothy P. Korytko

Bassett Healthcare Network announced three of its caregivers as recipients of the 2023 William F. Streck, M.D. Fellowship in Health Policy and Management: Dr. Timothy P. Korytko, chief of Radiation Oncology; Muhammad Bilal, M.B., B.S., resident at Bassett Medical Center; and Jennifer Hecox, service line director of Women's Health and Outpatient Psychiatry. This fellowship will allow these three caregivers, chosen from a competitive application process, to attend continuing medical education programs that

can prepare them for future challenges in healthcare. The recipients have plans to utilize their fellowship as follows:

Dr. Timothy P. Korytko will be attending the 2024 Chartis Clinical Quality Solutions Leadership Seminar.

Dr. Muhammad Bilal will be attending the Weill Cornell Strategic Healthcare Leadership Program.

Jennifer Hecox will be attending the 2024 AHA Rural Healthcare Leadership Conference.

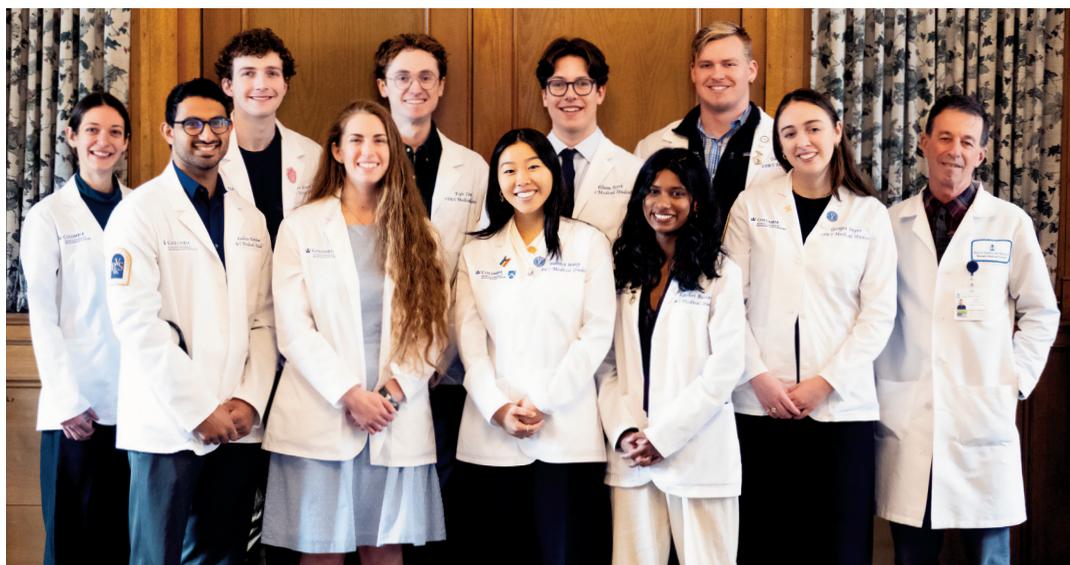


Dr. Muhammad Bilal

Dr. William Streck served as Bassett Healthcare Network's President and CEO for two stretches of its recent history: first from 1984 to 2014, and then again from 2018 to 2020. This namesake fellowship, created in 2014 to celebrate Dr. Streck's first 30-year tenure, provides non-degree educational and practical experiences for Bassett Healthcare Network medical, nursing, and administrative staff members. This endowment is an investment in Bassett's role as a leader in rural healthcare.

Streck's was one of the longest serving health system executives in New York State and the country and a recognized leader and innovator in health care design delivery and policy. He also served five New York State governors on advisory boards, key Department of Health committees, state policy groups, and numerous community and organizational boards—including HANYS' board of trustees—from 1988 to 2014, serving as HANYS' board chair in 2000. ■

Bassett Healthcare Network Welcomes Columbia-Bassett Class of 2026



Columbia-Bassett Class of 2026 with Dr. Henry Weil (far right)

Bassett Medical Center is pleased to welcome the 10 students comprising the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program Class of 2026. The students have completed their 18 months of pre-clinical training on Columbia University's New York City campus and will now be based at Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown for the clinical component of their education. ■

Bassett Welcomes Returning Alum



Dr. Gerald Landry

Gerald Landry, M.D. rejoined Bassett Medical Center as an attending physician in Internal Medicine and is seeing patients at the Prime Care Clinic in Cooperstown. He earned his medical degree at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and completed an internship at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, prior to his residency at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. He is board certified by American Board of Internal Medicine. ■



A reminder: Who are the members of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association?

You are past and current interns, residents and fellows. You are former and current members of the senior doctoral staff.

And you are students of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School program or students who spent your final two years of medical school at Bassett.

Staci Thompson Named President & CEO of Bassett Healthcare Network

Bassett Healthcare Network's board of directors has announced that Staci Thompson, has been named President and CEO of Bassett Healthcare Network. She has been serving as interim President and CEO since January 1, 2024, succeeding Dr. Tommy Ibrahim. After nearly four years of serving as president and CEO, Ibrahim decided to leave the organization at the end of 2023.

"Staci is an accomplished leader with decades of experience and knowledge - with a deep passion for rural health," says Doug Hastings, chair of Bassett Healthcare Network's board of directors. "Her extensive experience in healthcare operations leadership has positioned her to provide highly qualified and critical guidance at a pivotal time - as Bassett Healthcare Network continues to navigate complex industry headwinds around recruitment and retention, operational efficiency, the changing needs of our patients and communities, and rapidly expanding technological advancements in medicine."

Thompson arrived at Bassett Healthcare Network in 2023 after serving at The Guthrie Clinic for more than 28 years. At Guthrie, she held several executive leadership positions, including as executive vice president and chief operating officer for Guthrie Medical Group.

"I am thrilled to join a legacy of exceptional leaders at Bassett Healthcare Network," says Thompson. "Bassett Medical Center was founded in 1922 by Dr. Mary Imogene Bassett, a pioneering leader and true trailblazer who held a vision for rural medicine focused on access, social equity, research, and academics. It is an honor to continue this work



Staci Thompson

and lead Bassett forward surrounded by a team of talented and capable leaders. I am also humbled to work alongside 5,000 amazing caregivers who are dedicated to our patients and communities."

Since taking on the role as interim President & CEO earlier this year, Thompson has clearly defined organizational priorities that focus on Bassett's financial stability, operational efficiency, recruitment and retention, continued network integration, providing exceptional patient care and experiences, embracing virtual health and innovation, and positioning the organization to thrive.

"Having served at Guthrie, a rural healthcare system that spans more than 10,000 square miles in New York and Pennsylvania, I have a deep understanding of the unique needs and challenges of rural patient populations," Thompson continued. "I am dedicated to the patients and communities Bassett serves - and to the importance of honoring its rich history and trusted position as a local, independent, community-centered network of care."

Thompson earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Gannon University in Erie, Penn. She has a master's degree in healthcare administration from Pennsylvania State University. She has served as a board member of several volunteer organizations, including United Way and Stray Haven Humane Society. Thompson was born and raised in Auburn, New York. She is married with two sons. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, the outdoors, and volunteering. ■

BASSETT LOOKS BACK



Here's the resident staff of 1965 including Dr. David Svahn who appears in the back row directly beneath the central point of the building.

Legacy from page 8

future generations of physicians. These contributions ensure that the institution remains a beacon of excellence in medical education, producing compassionate and skilled healthcare professionals who carry forward Dr. Svahn's legacy of caring for patients as individuals.

As we honor the memory of Dr. David S. Svahn, let us reflect on his profound impact on the lives he touched. We hope this event inspires all who attend to recommit themselves to practicing medicine with empathy, compassion, and a deep appreciation for the humanity of all patients.

Upon completion of his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1965, Dr. David S. Svahn came to Bassett Hospital for his entire career including internship and internal medicine residency training, serving as attending physician and a member of the Internal Medicine faculty from 1972 to retirement in 2005, and then as a member the Bassett Emeritus staff. He died in the summer of 2023. ■



Bassett Healthcare Network
Bassett Medical Center

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Honoring the Legacy of Dr. David S. Svahn: Embracing Humanity in Healthcare

Dr. David S. Svahn, a revered figure in the world of healthcare, dedicated his life to instilling a profound sense of compassion and human connection in generations of physicians. As the medical landscape shifted towards metrics and technology, Dr. Svahn remained steadfast in his belief that true healing begins with listening and understanding the patient on a deeply human level.

In his later years of practice, Dr. Svahn witnessed the changing dynamics of medicine, with a growing emphasis on electronic records and performance metrics. Concerned by this trend, he embarked on a mission to remind physicians of the importance of returning to the fundamental principles of compassionate care. In lectures, discussions, and the poignant pages of "Let Me Listen to Your Heart," a collection of writings co-edited by Dr. Svahn, he passionately advocated for a transformative approach to patient care. With an impassioned plea, he urged his colleagues to listen to patients with a poet's ear, recognizing the metaphorical language often used to express emotional and psychological distress.

Dr. Svahn's daughter, Dr. Jennifer Svahn, herself a surgeon, fondly recalls her father's commitment to practicing medicine with empathy and dedication. Raised within the walls of

Bassett Medical Center, she witnessed firsthand the impact of her father's compassionate approach to patient care. From singing Christmas carols with patients to spending time in his office surrounded by medical books, Dr. Svahn instilled in his daughter and son, along with countless other healthcare professionals, a love for medicine rooted in human connection.



Dr. David Svahn with patient, Bassett Medical Center, 1997

In tribute to Dr. Svahn's legacy and his deep connection to Bassett Medical Center, his daughter, Dr. Jennifer Svahn and her husband, Dr. Jeffrey Nicastro have generously sponsored an endowed lecture series on the importance of humanities in medicine. This gift serves as a testament to Dr. Svahn's belief in the enduring value of compassion and understanding in healthcare.

The inaugural lecture of this series, featuring Dr. Michael LaCombe, exemplifies Dr. Svahn's conviction in the integral relationship between humanities and medicine. Scheduled for May 24, this event promises to be a celebration of Dr. Svahn's enduring influence on healthcare professionals and patients alike.

Through gifts such as the Svahn endowment, the Medical Education Fund at Bassett Medical Center continues to nurture

Legacy to page 7