Stony Brook University Stony Brook Medicine

TO: University Senate
FROM: William Wertheim, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine
DATE: February 2, 2026
SUBJECT: SBM EVP Report

ACADEMIC REPORT

Carol Carter Named a 2025 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors
Carol A. Carter, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology of the Renaissance School of Medicine (RSOM), has been elected as a 2025 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) — the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors. This honor recognizes Dr. Carter's sustained record of innovation, discovery, and impact on society through research and technology development. An internationally recognized virologist whose work has significantly advanced the understanding of viral replication and HIV biology, Dr. Carter was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2024. She will be formally inducted as an NAI Fellow at the Academy's annual meeting in June 2026.

School of Nursing Research Faculty Recognized at ACLM Conference
School of Nursing (SON) Assistant Professor Pamela Ginex, Clinical Associate Professor Sylvia K. Wood, and their CDC/NIOSH R21 research team were recognized at the American College of Lifestyle Medicine annual conference in November. The team's poster, "A Motivational Intervention to Increase Activity for World Trade Center Cancer Survivors," was selected as a winner in the conference's professional category.

The ACLM conference, held in Grapevine, Texas, is a multidisciplinary gathering focused on lifestyle medicine, encompassing physical activity, nutrition, stress reduction, sleep, substance avoidance, stress management, and social connections. The event brings together people who want to see these lifestyle medicine factors better integrated into our healthcare system.

School of Social Welfare Represented at Society for Social Work and Research Conference
Four faculty members and one doctoral student from the School of Social Welfare (SSW) will present their study, "Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice," at the 2026 annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) this month in Washington, D.C. The SSWR annual conference is widely recognized as the premier national forum for social work research, bringing together leading scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from across the country. Participating presenters include Kristen Brock-Petroshius, Assistant Professor; Gretchen Ely, Professor and PhD Program Director;

Meredith Slopen, Assistant Professor; Yalu Zhang, Assistant Professor; and Bingjie Wang, PhD student.

Ramada Davuluri and Ledong Wan Receive Cancer Center Grant

Stony Brook Cancer Center has awarded Ramada Davuluri, SUNY Distinguished Professor, and Interim Chair of the RSOM's Department of Biomedical Informatics, a $70K grant to lead the study "Artificial Intelligence Methods for Predicting Splice-Switching Variants and Oligonucleotide-Based Therapies in Breast Cancer." In collaboration with Ledong Wan of the Department of Pharmacological Sciences, the project applies artificial intelligence–driven DNA foundation models to identify splice-switching genomic variants present in at least 5% of breast invasive carcinoma (BRCA) cases and to evaluate their therapeutic potential using antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) technology. This interdisciplinary effort aims to advance understanding of the combinatorial effects of genetic variants on pre-mRNA splicing and to inform novel therapeutic strategies. Supported by the Carol M. Baldwin Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, the study began last December and will continue through December 2026.

Ann-Margaret Navarra Co-Publishes Key Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Adherence Study

Ann-Margaret Navarra, SON associate dean for nursing innovation, recently co-published research examining antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence in young people living with HIV. The study, which Dr. Navarra published alongside colleagues in the RSOM, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and from institutions around the country, sought to "characterize ART adherence phenotypes and psychosocial symptom clusters, as related to ART adherence and HIV viral load suppression."

A leader in nursing science, Dr. Navarra has a research focus on HIV/AIDS, pediatrics, chronic disease, and underserved populations. In the 1990s, she was a trailblazer in advanced practice pediatric nursing, spearheading care initiatives for youth living with HIV/AIDS. Her early work in this field became the foundation for her significant contributions to HIV behavioral sciences and health equity.

Studies Reveal Smartphone Use in Schools Remains a Concern

Lauren Hale, Professor in the Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine and the Program of Public Health (PPH), is senior author of newly published research that highlights continued concern over adolescent smartphone use during school. In a Research Letter published in JAMA Pediatrics, Dr. Hale and her colleagues reported that a global survey of more than 35,000 adults found strong support—over 75% worldwide and approximately 71% of U.S. parents—for banning smartphones in schools. In a second Research Letter published in JAMA, U.S. adolescents were found to spend an average of 1.2 hours per school day on smartphones, predominantly using social media. These findings underscore widespread smartphone use during instructional time and point to the need for further research on policy impacts and student outcomes.

Research by Zachary Morris Cited by the New York Times
Research conducted by SSW Associate Professor Zachary Morris and colleagues from the National Disability Institute and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, was recently cited in a *New York Times* piece. The article, titled "More Disabled People Can Open Special Savings Accounts. Do You Qualify?" referenced research Dr. Morris jointly published in 2020 that revealed households containing an adult with a work-restricting disability require 28 percent more income to achieve the same standard of living experienced by a household without an adult with a disability.

Study: Increased Levels of Protein Linked to Alzheimer's Found in Some with Long COVID
A new study published in eBioMedicine reports that some individuals with neurological symptoms of Long COVID show significantly increased blood levels of phosphorylated tau-181 (pTau-181), a protein associated with Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions. The analysis, led by senior author Dr. Benjamin J. Luft, Director of the Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness Program and Edmund D. Pellegrino, Professor of Medicine, and corresponding author Dr. Sean Clouston, Professor in the PPH and the RSOM's Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine, was conducted among World Trade Center responders. The study found that pTau-181 levels rose by approximately 59% following SARS-CoV-2 infection in participants with persistent neurocognitive symptoms, particularly among those symptomatic for more than 18 months. The findings suggest the potential for lasting brain changes linked to prolonged Long COVID and highlight the importance of further research into the long-term neurological effects of COVID-19.

Occupational Therapy Supports Long Island Cares
Stony Brook University's Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) Chapter and Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) partnered with Long Island Cares for a joint service initiative, packing 65 food boxes for individuals and families in need. Through service and advocacy efforts, COTAD works to address occupational injustice and healthcare inequities across education, healthcare, and society. Long Island Cares serves Nassau and Suffolk Counties with a mission to combat hunger and food insecurity. This collaboration reflects the Occupational Therapy program's ongoing commitment to community engagement and social responsibility.

Physical Therapy Hosts Kinesiology Fair
The Physical Therapy program hosted its annual Kinesiology Fair where first-year DPT students showcased their foundational knowledge of core kinesiological principles. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with complex anatomy and biomechanics brought to life through detailed, interactive 3D models created by our students.

Mary Cavanagh Appointed Chief of Staff at Northport VA Medical Center
The RSOM notes the appointment of Dr. Mary Cavanagh as Chief of Staff at the Northport VA Medical Center. Dr. Cavanagh previously served as Deputy Chief of Staff since 2021 and as Interim Chief of Staff since July 2025. She earned her MD from Albany Medical College,

completed an Internal Medicine internship at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, and a residency in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health at Stony Brook University, where she also completed a Master of Public Health at Columbia University. Since joining the Northport VA Medical Center in 2011 as Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Physician Program Manager in Primary Care, Dr. Cavanagh has held multiple leadership roles, including serving as the Stony Brook Preventive Medicine Residency Site Supervisor, and has been actively involved in strategic planning, policy development, and organizational performance and operations. In her new role, Dr. Cavanagh will continue to advance the Northport VA Medical Center's mission and support the healthcare needs of Veterans and their families.

Stony Brook Medicine Recognized in LIBN Health Care Heroes
Long Island Business News has announced its 2026 Health Care Heroes, recognizing individuals and organizations making a significant impact on the quality of healthcare across Long Island. Stony Brook Medicine is well represented among this year's 13 category honorees, with the Clinical Trials Unit at Commack—the launch of which was overseen by Dr. Susan Hedayati, RSOM Vice Dean for Research —receiving the Health Care Innovation Award, and Dr. Allison McLarty, Stony Brook Medicine's newly appointed General Ting Feng Cheng Endowed Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery, being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Honorees will be celebrated at a breakfast event later this month at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury and profiled in a special section of *Long Island Business News*.

CLINICAL REPORT

AWARDS, ACCOLADES & NEWS:

- Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has been named one of Becker's Hospital Review's 2025 "Greatest Hospitals in America," joining a list of 100 standout healthcare institutions.

  These hospitals have been identified by Becker's for their exceptional clinical performance, unwavering focus on patient safety, and dedication to innovation, research, and education. Their commitment to delivering outstanding patient experiences has earned them national recognition, with SBUH being the only hospital in Suffolk County featured.

  Ranked among the top 10 hospitals in New York for 2025–26 by U.S. News & World Report, SBUH exemplifies how academic medicine, workforce development and patient-centered innovation translate into measurable impact and safer, more effective care.

  As a major teaching hospital, SBUH is home to the Stony Brook Heart Institute, the Stony Brook Cancer Center, and the Stony Brook Neurosciences Institute, and encompasses SBCH, which was ranked No. 1 for Pediatric Care in NYS by Money magazine in 2025. This comprehensive structure ensures it remains a leader in translating research and innovation into exceptional patient care for the Long Island community and beyond.

- Stony Brook Heart Institute's Center for Advanced Lipid Management has achieved a historic global milestone, becoming the first center in the world to administer a commercial dose of plozasiran, the newly approved RNA-interference therapy for Familial Chylomicronemia Syndrome (FCS).

  FCS is an ultra-rare condition marked by extreme triglyceride levels, often 10 to 100 times above normal, leading to recurrent and severe pancreatitis. An estimated 6,500 people in the United States are affected by genetic or clinical FCS. Plozasiran, a newly FDA-approved RNAi therapy targeting apolipoprotein C-III, demonstrated profound and sustained triglyceride reductions and fewer pancreatitis episodes in the PALISADE Phase 3 trial, representing a transformative advance for patients who previously had no effective treatment options.

  Patients also benefit from advanced, emerging, and transformative therapies, including novel biologics, RNA-based treatments like plozasiran, and clinical trials for individuals whose cholesterol or triglycerides remain uncontrolled with standard therapies -positioning SBM as a regional and national leader in advanced lipid care.

- SBM has received the Silver Level Path to Excellence in Life Support Award from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO). This award recognizes top extracorporeal life support (ECLS) programs worldwide that distinguish themselves through their processes, procedures and systems that promote exceptional care in extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). SBM is one of three sites on Long Island to be honored by the ELSO and the only one in Suffolk County.

  ECMO is an emergency, temporary form of life support for people who have severe heart failure, such as from a massive heart attack, where the heart cannot pump enough blood to the body. It is also used in lung failure, such as from severe pneumonia. ECMO can temporarily take over the job of the heart and the lungs and give the person time to be treated and recover.

  SBM has been collecting and reviewing ECMO data since 2011 and is one of the longest-standing ECMO programs on Long Island. All Award of Excellence designations are for a three-year period, with this one beginning January 1, 2026, until December 2028.

- A new resiliency training program for first responders led by SBM will be conducted through fire stations and emergency medical services organizations in New York and Texas beginning in 2026, with the goal to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in first responders.

  The initiative is supported by a five-year, $3.3 million grant from the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that runs through June 2030.

  The SBM team, led by Adam Gonzalez, professor in the Department of Psychiatry and

Behavioral Health in the Renaissance School of Medicine (RSOM) at Stony Brook University, along with the Texas A&M University team, led by Anka Vujanovic, will recruit participants for a clinical trial to evaluate the Worker Resilience Training (WRT) program. Rebecca Schwartz will lead the data coordinating site at The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research at Northwell Health.

Developed by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, WRT is a four-hour interactive workshop to educate first responders about the health effects of traumatic exposures and PTSD. The program also demonstrates and trains responders in ways to increase coping strategies and promote resilience practices, such as stress management and healthy lifestyle behaviors.

Previously, Gonzalez and colleagues completed a clinical trial of WRT with 167 participants. Results from this preliminary research showed that compared to a control group, WRT helped prevent PTSD and depression symptoms, as well as improved important resilience indicators, such as stress management, physical activity, and healthy lifestyle behaviors over the course of three months.

Stony Brook and collaborative institutions expect to recruit about eight hundred firefighters and EMS workers for his five-year study, which will build on the previous work. Recruitment begins in early spring 2026. They will work directly with fire stations and EMS organizations on Long Island, Westchester, and Rockland Counties in NYS, and within the Houston area in Texas.

They expect the results of evaluating WRT will have broad implications regarding building resilience and preventing PTSD in first responders. If successful, such programs could be implemented nationwide to foster good mental health practices and resilience training for responders.

- Carol Gomes, CEO, SBUH, has been named one of Crain's New York Business 2025 Notable Leaders in Sustainability. This prestigious recognition honors professionals who have made measurable environmental impacts, demonstrated exceptional leadership in sustainability, and contributed meaningfully to professional organizations and community initiatives.

  Under Gomes' leadership, SBUH has become a destination for high-quality care in Suffolk County, supported by more than 8,000 staff members across four hospitals. By championing strategic operations, quality outcomes, and environmental stewardship, she has integrated sustainability into every facet of care delivery, from green building design to waste reduction. Her approach demonstrates that operational excellence and environmental responsibility can work cooperatively to improve community health.

  Serving as both CEO and COO of SBUH, Gomes is a longstanding member of its senior executive team. She holds dual master's degrees from Stony Brook University in

management and policy, as well as healthcare management. Her commitment to excellence is reflected in her service on the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Program's Board of Examiners since 1999, most recently as a senior and alumni examiner. In September 2024, she was reappointed as board chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and continues to serve on the advisory board for Stony Brook University's Master of Health Administration program.

Gomes has distinguished herself by embedding sustainability into the core of healthcare operations, propelling SBUH to national recognition. The hospital has been named one of the Top 25 hospitals in the country for environmental sustainability and has received several prestigious awards, including the Practice Greenhealth Emerald Award, the Greening the OR Award, and the Vizient Sustainability Award for Complex Academic Medical Centers.

Through her visionary leadership, SBUH continues to lead the way in building climate resilience and creating a safer, healthier environment for patients, staff, and the broader community.

PERSONNEL UPDATES:

- After 12 years of exceptional service as the Founding Chair of BMI, Dr. Joel Saltz chose to step down to focus on his research and teaching and growth of an AI pathology company built upon patents developed at Stony Brook.

  Dr. Saltz joined SBU in 2013 as the Founding Chair of the new Department of Biomedical Informatics and Vice President for Clinical Informatics at SBM. He was also the inaugural holder of the Cherith Chair in Biomedical Informatics. Under his leadership, the BMI Department has grown and achieved national and international recognition for its research and educational programs. He recruited more than a dozen core BMI faculty and seven clinical informatics faculty as well as numerous affiliated faculty in various departments and schools at SBU and elsewhere. The BMI Department is now highly regarded for innovation, particularly the invention of new large language models for biomedical, clinical, and imaging informatics. Dr. Saltz launched new graduate programs to train master's and PhD students as well as an ACGME-accredited clinical informatics fellowship for physicians. The Department's annual BMI Bootcamp attracts attendees from across the campus.

  Dr. Saltz is one of the founders of the field of digital pathology. He invented the first whole slide virtual microscope system, and more recently developed AI pipelines to image tumor infiltrating lymphocytes in cancers. The software tools that he created have been used to extract and analyze information from electronic health records, laboratory, and radiology data. These tools have been useful for a broad range of clinical applications including radiology image interpretation, aortic aneurysm detection, emergency department patient flow, and hospital readmissions. During the pandemic, he helped establish the National COVID Collaborative (N3C), a rich resource for identifying treatments and specialized care of patients with acute and long COVID.

Dr. Saltz received his MD and PhD in Computer Science from Duke University. He was trained in Clinical Pathology at Johns Hopkins Medical School and held faculty appointments there as Professor and Director of Pathology Informatics. Prior to joining Stony Brook, Dr. Saltz launched new BMI departments at Emory University and Ohio State University. A Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics, Dr. Saltz is also a 2024 recipient of the Very Large Database Foundation's Test of Time Award. He has received over seventy grants and contracts and has an extensive publication track record with over 39,000 citations.

Dr. Ramana Davuluri succeeds Dr. Saltz and will serve as the department's Interim Chair, effective January 5. A world leader in molecular data science, Dr. Davuluri's research focuses on computational analysis of non-coding genomic regions and isoform-level gene regulation, work that has been continuously funded by National Library of Medicine R01 grants since 2013. Among his pioneering efforts in machine learning-driven biomedical applications, Dr. Davuluri led the team responsible for developing DNABERT, the world's first genomic large language model capable of predicting allele-specific activity based only on local nucleotide sequence context, and prioritizing candidate transcription-factor-binding sites, core-promoters and splice sites that are sensitive to variants at genome-scale.

Dr. Davuluri earned his BS in Mathematics from Nagarjuna University, India, followed by a PhD in Statistics and Computer Application from the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute in New Delhi. He completed postdoctoral training in Bioinformatics at the University of Ghent, Belgium, and in Computational Biology at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Prior to joining Stony Brook, Dr. Davuluri was an Associate Professor at Ohio State University, then an Associate Professor and Director of Computational Biology at Philadelphia's Wistar Institute, and later a Professor of BMI at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. He was promoted to SUNY Distinguished Professor earlier this year and was a regular member of the National Library of Medicine's Biomedical Informatics, Library and Data Science Review Committee.

- Annalisa Monahan, DNP, MSN, MHA, NE-BC has been appointed as the new Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer for SBELIH.

  Dr. Monahan joins us from Mt. Sinai West, a 514-bed acute care hospital in Manhattan, where she currently serves as Director of Patient Care Services for Medicine and Surgery. She is a nationally board-certified Nurse Executive and a Doctor of Nursing Practice with deep experience in clinical quality, regulatory readiness, and workforce leadership.
  In addition to her clinical and operational leadership, Dr. Monahan is widely recognized for developing nursing leaders, strengthening team culture, and creating high-reliability care environments.

  Dr. Monahan will oversee all nursing and patient care services at SBELIH, collaborating closely with physicians, clinical teams, and leadership to advance quality, safety, and patient.

- Alison C. Madden, MD, with her newly established gynecology practice, has joined Stony Brook Medicine Community Medical Group, part of SBM's expanding network of community practices. The addition of Dr. Madden's practice expands access to gynecologic care in Mattituck and for the greater North Fork community, ensuring more patients can receive high-quality, specialized women's healthcare close to home.

  Dr. Madden earned her medical degree from Weill Cornell Medicine in NYC and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA, where she later served as Associate Residency Director and received numerous awards for excellence in teaching and leadership.

  Beyond her clinical practice, Dr. Madden serves as Chief Medical Officer at SBELIH. In this role, she works to create a welcoming environment for patients, supports and empowers staff, and strengthens the hospital's bond with the community she is proud to serve.

  Dr. Madden provides a full spectrum of gynecologic services, including routine wellness exams, preventive screenings, treatment of complex conditions and personalized care through every stage of life. With a focus on timely access, clear communication and coordinated care, she is committed to ensuring women feel supported and confident in their health journey.

SERVICE LINE UPDATES:

Emergency Medicine:

- In mid-December, the EMS department launched its Pre-Hospital Blood Program, a milestone initiative that will significantly enhance the care provided by our flight paramedics. Flight paramedics at the MacArthur and Gabreski bases will now carry two units of packed red blood cells on each aircraft, allowing for life-saving transfusions in adult and pediatric patients suffering from hemorrhagic shock secondary to trauma, obstetric complications, gastrointestinal bleeding, and other etiologies in accordance with NYS protocols.

Heart Institute:

- The Heart Institute welcomes Danielle Delio, on her new role as Nurse Specialist for 16 South— Cardiac and Medical Stepdown

  Danielle is an experienced MICU nurse and MICU nurse leader. Danielle brings a wealth of clinical expertise and leadership experience to this new role. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to patient-centered care and excellence throughout her nursing career. Her years of experience, advanced education, and deep understanding of the care of critically ill patients make her an ideal fit for the dynamic nature of 16 South. She is uniquely qualified to support our staff, patients, and families with skill and compassion.

In her new position, Danielle will partner closely with the nursing and provider teams on 16 South to ensure the delivery of safe, efficient, and high-quality nursing care. She will play a key role in advancing clinical practice, supporting professional development, and driving quality initiatives that align with our organizational goals. Danielle's energy, collaborative spirit, and dedication to nursing excellence will be invaluable as we continue to strengthen our cardiac and medical stepdown services.

On December 11, 2025, the Heart Institute held the 15th anniversary of the Left Ventricular Device (LVAD) program. This milestone honored our patients, caregivers, and staff by recognizing the perseverance, resilience, and collaboration that have shaped our program over the past 15 years. The celebration supports our mission to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care that extends beyond clinical needs and promotes the emotional and social well-being of our LVAD community. It serves as an extension of our support group meetings, offering patients a relaxed, social environment to connect with one another and engage with their providers.

On December 4, 2025, the Heart Institute nursing teams provided blood pressure screening and patient education at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center Senior Health Fair. During the event, the team engaged with approximately 105 guests, representing by far the most interactive and engaged population we have encountered to date. Many visitors requested contact information for our general and EP cardiology practices, and a significant number reported having at least one physician within the SBM network, reinforcing the value of our presence and visibility in this community.

Neurosciences:

- SBELIH is preparing for its Joint Commission survey to become a primary stroke center (PSC). The survey window opened at the end of December 2025 and runs through the end of March 2026, during which time the survey may commence with short notice from the Joint Commission. SBELIH has been preparing with support from a team across the health system and has continued to improve their practices during the preparation. Once they achieve designation as a PSC, they will complete a process through NYS to be recognized as such and become a receiving hospital of suspected stroke patients being brought in by EMS. Although telestroke services are being utilized, recruiting for Neurology coverage for the North Fork is a priority to help with sustaining the program and maintaining stroke patients at SBELIH.

- The Stony Brook Children's Hospital (SBCH) school district initiative, C.A.R.E., is designed to assist school districts with expedited access for students needing specialized services, such as those provided by Psychiatry, Neurology, Pediatrics and Orthopedics. Since the program's launch in September 2025, we have received over eighty referrals, with approximately 60% being new patients to the health system. Over one thousand school district staff have received professional development from our faculty experts, and a SBCH newsletter has been created and is being pushed out monthly to thousands of families in

the contracted districts (7). Additional districts have begun to inquire about joining the initiative for the next school year (26/27). Our goal is to add a minimum of three more districts to the list of those contracted.

- A Substance Use Disorder (SUD) quality improvement committee at the SBM system level was launched during the summer of 2025 and has been meeting monthly. The group has developed a purpose and aim and has educated staff and faculty about national measures/metrics associated with substance use disorder care. The committee is led by Paul Murphy of the CIN and Dr. Jarid Pachter, who have focused on identifying opportunities for improvement across the SBM continuum. They are engaged with committee members, including staff and faculty from across a variety of departments and settings, all who have either an expertise or interest in SUD quality improvement. The committee's efforts to educate faculty across SBM is also helping to ensure patients in need of services are referred to the best location of care to meet their needs. Improvements in quality and referral patterns are already being achieved.

Women's/Children's Services:

- The Department of OBGYN and the Women's Health Service Line submitted a 5-year $14 million grant application to the Cohen Foundation as part of their Letter of Intent for projects focused on Women's Health. The Stony Brook Clinical Center of Excellence in Women's Midlife Health will be the epicenter of the creation of a true women's health service line focus on the middle of a women's life and encompasses research collaboration across SBM and SBU and the care coordination of clinical services for women throughout Suffolk County with the inclusion of all inpatient and outpatient sites in the SBM network.

- Our hospital-based prenatal classes, which resumed in January 2025, have proven to be a phenomenal success and resource to our delivering patients. Over the past year we have had a total of 352 patients and 348 support people complete the class, which was initially offered every other week, but transitioned to weekly classes based on patient demand. Based on evaluations completed from March – November 2025, 100% of participants stated they feel more confident delivering and caring for the baby after taking the class, 100% of participants would recommend this class to a friend, and 100% felt that all their questions were addressed during the class.

- The Department of Pediatrics is happy to share that all fellowship-bound residents matched successfully to programs around the country including Stony Brook, Johns Hopkins, and Northwell. Additionally, our own fellowship programs were successful in the Match. The NICU program recruited four new fellows, the new Pediatric Hospitalist Medicine program recruited its first fellow, and the Gastroenterology and Emergency Medicine fellowship slots were filled by our own chief residents next year.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Essential Services:

- The pharmacy is preparing for upcoming 2026 changes in drug reimbursement involving the federal 340B program in which upfront discounts for certain drugs will transition to a manufacturer rebate program. Instead of receiving up-front discounts for drugs that meet the criteria for 340B preferred pricing, the hospital must pay full price and request a rebate from the manufacturer. This change is in effect, as of January 1, 2026, for a select number of drugs.

- The Pharmacy's PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residents will be presenting research posters in January at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting (ASHP MCM) in Las Vegas. The ASHP MCM is the largest gathering of pharmacists in the world and will represent the groundbreaking practices accomplished at SBUH.

- Phagenyx is a neurostimulation device that delivers pharyngeal electrical stimulation to patients with severe dysphagia following acute stroke. It recently received FDA approval in the US for this population and is used internationally for a wider range of neurogenic dysphagia. Additional on- label indications are expected in the U.S. This device was brought to SBUH for a pilot project that was initiated in July 2025, and as a result, five patients were successfully treated. All five patients avoided PEG tube placement and were discharged on an oral diet which resulted in a significantly reduced length-of- stay. Following the successful trials, the Phagenyx system was approved by the Stony Brook Medicine Products Committee in November 2025 for permanent establishment.

- A directional signal light and alarm were installed at the nursing station in the Pediatric ICU. This alarm will provide reinforced safety for pediatric intracranial surgical patients to alert staff immediately if a patient requires immediate attention. The alarm with flashing light is activated by the EEG tech who is located on 13N in the EEG lab where 24/7 monitoring occurs for surgical patients and elective epilepsy patients.

- The Radiology Department has launched a pilot program utilizing RAPID AI software to improve the speed, accuracy, and overall efficiency of CT image reconstructions specifically for Brain Attack Team Stroke cases. This cutting-edge artificial intelligence platform is engineered to automate approximately 80% of the image reconstruction tasks that are traditionally managed manually by CT technologists. By streamlining this process, RAPID AI significantly reduces turnaround time for critical stroke imaging, allowing for faster diagnosis and treatment decisions. The software also minimizes the potential for human error and frees up technologists to focus on other high-priority tasks, enhancing workflow and patient care during time-sensitive neurological emergencies.

- The Radiology Department is conducting a trial of a new scoliosis imaging system developed by Carestream. This advanced imaging solution is designed to deliver superior

image quality with enhanced resolution, which is particularly beneficial for detailed spinal assessments and orthopedic evaluations. One of the most notable features of this system is its ability to substantially lower radiation exposure compared to conventional imaging techniques, making it a safer option for pediatric and adolescent patients who require frequent monitoring. In addition to scoliosis evaluations, the system supports full-leg and full-spine imaging, offering a comprehensive tool for musculoskeletal diagnostics. The trial aims to assess the system's clinical performance, ease of integration into existing workflows, and potential to improve diagnostic confidence while prioritizing patient safety.

- Histology is actively progressing through the validation of the K17 antibody, an antibody marker with significant potential for identifying the most aggressive forms of pancreatic cancer, and one that has been extensively studied in Dr. Shroyer's research laboratory. Histology received the newly developed cell-block control produced by the research team, which will serve as additional validation control material for the hospital laboratory. This control is now being incorporated into our validation process and will be tested alongside the current staining procedure to ensure accuracy, consistency, and clinical reliability. The K17 validation continues to be a fully collaborative effort between the Pathology research laboratory and the hospital histology laboratory, with both teams coordinating control development, protocol optimization, and analytical review. The team remains on track to complete all required validation studies and documentation by the end of January 2026.

- Improved infection control practices resulted in reduced costs by changing the manufacturer of our disposable closed suction catheters from Avanos to Medline. Medline recommends changing catheters only when clinically necessary as opposed to Avanos which required changing every 48 hours. Research has consistently demonstrated that manipulating and changing ventilator circuits, or any part of, is not only unnecessary but may increase infection risk. Each manipulation creates an opportunity for pathogen introduction into the airway, and potentially a ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP). Changing these catheters less frequently will decrease cost while minimizing the patient's risk of infection and potentially length of stay.

- The improved process for delivering nebulized antibiotics involves using the AeroEclipse II nebulizer. This breath-actuated nebulizer (BAN) offers the key benefits of generating aerosols only during inspiration, minimizing drug waste and enhancing delivery efficiency to the patient when compared to continuous nebulizers. Studies have shown superior lung deposition of antibiotics using a BAN versus standard nebulizers (75% vs 47%.) This increased efficiency provides consistent respirable doses to reach the lungs regardless of breathing patterns, reducing medication waste while potentially creating shorter hospital stays and cost savings. The BAN also protects clinicians from second-hand exposure to medications since no aerosol is produced during exhalation, slashing environmental drug loss.

- Since 2023, the Nutrition Division has been leading a continuous quality improvement (CQI)

project to improve the provision of nutrients, specifically calories and protein, to patients that are on a tube feeding because they are unable to chew/swallow. The team determined the percentage of ordered nutritional formula that is delivered through the tube by comparing diet orders to documented I/Os (inputs and outputs which includes volume of formula delivered each hour) in the chart. There were three cycles of this CQI project, with changes in procedures and provider education in between data collection periods to address opportunities for improvement. From Fall 2023 to Fall 2025 the average calorie deficit decreased from 701+542 kcal/day to 383+405; as this does not include calories from sedative (propofol) which is typically greater than three hundred calories per day this indicates that calories needs were typically met in 2025. From Fall 2023 to Fall 2025 the average protein deficit decreased from 31+23 g/day to 15.8+18 g/day. This reflects that in Fall 2025, on average, 80% of protein ordered was delivered. This is consistent with best practices, indicating that the interventions were successful. Of note, the large standard deviations reflect the variability in patients' ability to tolerate tube feeding due to medical status as the majority of these patients are critical care patients.

- The SBUH Linen Services Department has again met its contractual obligation pertaining to soil linen return resulting in securing the lowest possible linen rental rate as per the NYS OGS contract. Soil return factor tonnage under 105% will consequentially increase rental cost by $.01 per pound per percentage point under the allowable returned poundage and can cost the hospital up to $70,000 annually. To date SBUH has never incurred that extra expense due to our continual focus on hoarding prevention.