

University Senate Report December, 2020

Program in Public Health

The PPH offers two Masters level degree granting programs, a Masters in Public Health and a Masters in Healthcare Management. Both programs have experienced much growth this academic year, greater than 20% this semester alone. Of note, a significant fraction of new students are current Stony Brook University employees.

Renaissance School of Medicine

A series of meetings designed to create an action plan to enhance diversity and inclusion in the RSOM have been held over the past several months, and one action item was enacted, Dr. Jedan Philips has been appointed Associate Dean for Minority Student Affairs.

A joint provostial lecture mini-series was held last week, December 2nd a lecture by Dr. Sotiropoulos on modeling respiratory droplet spread, indoors and outdoors, with and without masks, and on December 3rd, a talk on the basic biology of vaccination for SARS-CoV2, the clinical trials for six of these vaccines, and the logistics of registration and dissemination, by Drs. Kaushansky, Fries and Nachman.

The RSOM post-COVID clinic in Commack has been launched, which employs both generalists and specialists, the latter focusing on the major post-COVID complications in coagulation, kidney function, neurological and psychiatric issues, and cardiac and pulmonary dysfunction. The clinic serves the dual purpose of clinical care and continuing to accrue data on patients to allow deep learning algorithms to be constructed to predict outcomes and foster hypotheses of disease pathogenesis. The clinic welcomes current Stony Brook Medicine patients, and individuals cared for by other healthcare systems.

The World Trade Center First Responders Clinic has received a \$2M grant to expand their testing and follow up of first responders to 9/11, who live on Long Island, to cognitive changes potentially induced long after the disaster.

Dr. Stella Tsirka, from the Department of Pharmacology, and Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs, was promoted to SUNY Distinguished Professor.

School of Health Technology and Management

With the rapid rise in the need for telehealth brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to train healthcare professionals in this new discipline is great. The SHTM has crafted, along with our other health care schools, The Interprofessional Telehealth Board, an academic collaborative composed of representatives from the different health science schools. The group creates educational resources for the healthcare community and develops standards for the practice of telehealth across disciplines, facilitates interprofessional research, creates and suggests interprofessional curricula, and explores interprofessional clinical experiences.

School of Nursing

The School hosted a presentation on November 11, 2020 at 11:00 AM via Zoom: “PTSD in Healthcare Personnel: Lessons from Vietnam”. The talk was given by Joan Furey, and was based on a program she established to treat women in the VA system after returning from Army Veteran nurse, having served in the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, Vietnam. The talk was outstanding

School of Social Welfare

A national search for the Dean of the School has been launched, headed by Drs. Stacy Gropack (Dean SHTM) and Iris Granek (Chair, Family, Population and Preventive Medicine, RSOM) and, and assisted by the search firm of Isaacson Miller. The search has begun to identify candidates but remains open for suggested candidates.

The School has reported a >20% growth in enrollment this year, compared to last year, primarily in the their Masters of Social Work (MSW) program.

Stony Brook University Hospital

SBUH has definitely entered a second round of COVID-19. Yesterday’s COVID census was 67 with 13 patients in ICU or intermediate level care. Unfortunately, we are now seeing about one COVID+ patient a day who has succumbed to their infection.

The hospital is near capacity, based on normal capacity, but we are still able to surge so we are not, as in other places, running out of beds.

The hospital is prepared with sufficient personal protective equipment, our viral testing capacity has been greatly improved compared to early in the pandemic and will soon be far better, we have sufficient equipment (e.g. ventilators) and medications (e.g. glucocorticoids, remdesivir, convalescent plasma, monoclonal antibodies against SARS-CoV2), and our staff are prepared very well, based on our prior experiences.