In this issue:

- **HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Editor-in-Chief of The Buzz**

- **ACGME NEWS**
  2022 Annual Educational Conference-Registration Opens Dec 6

- **ACGME AWARD**

  2022 Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

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From the Editor-in-Chief: Gloria Jorge, C-TAGME

**Happy Holidays to all!** As we look forward to celebrating (finally!) with family and friends, we look back at some of the events we experienced this past year that affected us all as GME training administrators at SUNY Downstate.

Early 2021, we saw a surge of employees, staff, and students roll up their sleeves to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, front-line-workers who would be responsible for providing life-saving care to the many patients who entered our front door. These were challenging times with limited PPE, limited resources, and unlimited uncertainties. Deployment became a part of our vocabulary and quarantine, isolation, and return to work policies. Yet, we all worked together to provide quality care to our patients. Many of us witnessed miracles but also experienced losing colleagues and loved ones to the pandemic.

As if the pandemic wasn’t enough, GME notified us in the Spring that all training programs were required to enter their residents’ daily schedule into New Innovations... ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULES. Entering data into the Assignment Schedule is a time-consuming task. An enormous undertaking when you have a large program (even a small one!). Who didn’t sympathize with our colleague Jackie Dowling who “vented” via RPCF for some consideration and compassion – her program has 72 residents! I hear you, Jackie!

As we prepared to celebrate our trainees’ graduation in June, we all scrambled with the new No Indoor Graduation Events policy. Even those held outdoors adhered to social distancing and State guidelines. However, not all was lost as our fearless leader and DIO, Dr. Teresa Smith, led the way for a virtual graduation ceremony where all departments contributed a brief video congratulating the graduating residents/fellows on completing their training. Live-streamed virtual graduation took place on June 17, 2021.

The new academic year saw Mayor DeBlasio’s mandate for all NYC health care workers to be vaccinated. Former Governor Cuomo’s State mandate soon followed: the Governor announced that all patient-facing healthcare workers—ANYONE, including students, who encounter patients at New York state-run hospitals—must be vaccinated. Vaccination status took on a whole new meaning with the establishment of portals and compliance stickers as mechanisms for providing proof of vaccination. Dr. Smith diligently kept us updated on the requirements and status requests on both sides of the street, UHB and KCHC.

As we approached the beginning of yet another interview season, in late Summer/early Fall, we were reminded to again comply with the COPA recommendations, including recommendations of the ACGME, to have virtual interviews for this academic year. Some of us have polished our skills and are now quite adept at managing ZOOM, Microsoft TEAMS, and Thalamus. Remember to add these skills to your résumé!

We look forward to what 2022 has in store for us...

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season – until we meet again. Happy New Year!

Be well.

Gloria
REGISTRATION FOR THE 2022 ACGME CONFERENCE OPENS DECEMBER 6, 2021

It’s virtual! Make every effort to attend! (Professional development!!)

WHAT'S NEW

2022 ACGME Annual Educational Conference registration opens December 6

2022 ACGME Annual Educational Conference
MARCH 30 – APRIL 1, 2022

REGIONS TO ATTEND THE 2022 ACGME ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

BUDGET-FRIENDLY
The #ACGME2022 Annual Educational Conference offers educational content, networking opportunities, and several virtual events and activities at a significantly discounted fee, with options for different budgets. Registration options also include on-demand access to content for up to one month after the live conference.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS
As the largest GME conference in the world, the ACGME will continue to provide opportunities for attendees, colleagues, and peers to connect and engage throughout ACGME2022. Each registration includes access to all networking events and attendee activities. The virtual experience will provide attendees with the opportunity to connect via live Q&A sessions with speakers and ACGME staff members, text or video chat with peers in real-time, and chatrooms dedicated to specific topics applicable to many roles in GME.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CME
Attending #ACGME2022 will foster professional growth, while also identifying pathways for advancing one’s career in GME. Educational sessions are designed to facilitate development, spark innovation, and discover paths for meeting professional goals. Additionally, CME credits and/or a Certificate of Participation are included in your conference registration for no additional fee.

INVALUABLE CONTENT FOR ALL ROLES IN GME
The Annual Educational Conference offers a wide selection of stimulating content, whether an individual is a first-time or a seasoned attendee! With over 70 educational and interactive sessions, and topics covering ACGME accreditation and initiatives, diversity, equity, and inclusion; faculty and professional development; well-being; crisis management; assessment, and much more, there is something for everyone! To learn more about topics relevant to your role in GME, check out the full conference schedule, where you can sort by GME role to select sessions most applicable to you.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING
This year’s conference offers a diverse selection of content that applies to different learning styles and GME roles. Additionally, most sessions will be offered on demand, giving attendees the ability to view educational content when it’s most convenient to them.
ACGME Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award
Sponsoring Institution - SUNY DOWNSTATE

CONGRATULATIONS!! As GME training administrators we are extremely proud of the recognition bestowed upon our institution by the ACGME! SUNY Downstate wins the Institutional ACGME Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award submitted by Dr. Christina Guillen (Pediatrics), Dr. Christina Pardo (OB/GYN) and Dr. Teresa Smith (DIO).

“We are delighted to be acknowledged by the ACGME for our efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion. We would like to thank the College of Medicine, Dean Brunicardi, and President Riley for their dedication to GME and DEI. We would also like to thank Dr. Carla Boutin-Foster, our Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Research for her support and outstanding UME initiatives” – Teresa Y. Smith, MD, MSEd, FACEP

Residents and Fellows
The ACGME believes clinical learning environments should be safe and supportive for all residents and fellows, and supports ensuring that residents and fellows learn to care for the diverse populations and demographics of their local institutional and programmatic setting.

Christina Guillen, MD, FAAP
Assoc DIO of Diversity & Inclusion Program Director, Pediatrics

Christina Pardo, MD, MPH
Vice-Chair, Q.I. and Innovation Director, Health Equity

Teresa Y. Smith, MD, MSEd
Designated Institutional Official Assoc Dean for GME & Affiliations

Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MSc
Assoc Dean for Diversity Education and Research

Look for our interview with Teresa Y. Smith, MD, MSEd, FACEP – DIO, in the next issue of The Buzz, March 2022!
REMINDERS
FOR THIS INTERVIEW SEASON

NRMP News

2022 NRMP Main Residency Match Calendar

January 31
11:59 p.m. E.T.: Applicant Standard Registration Deadline for the Match and SOAP ($50 additional fee for late registration)

February 1
12:00 p.m. E.T.: Ranking opens Medical schools begin verifying student/graduate graduation credentials

March 2
9:00 p.m. E.T.: Rank Order List Certification Deadline
• Applicant late registration for the Match and SOAP and Match withdrawal deadline
• Medical school student/graduate graduation credentials verification deadline
• Institutional official change approvals deadline
• Program reversion deadline

March 14
Match Week Begins A detailed Match Week and SOAP schedule will be released as soon as it is finalized.

March 18
Match Day

FELLOWSHIP MATCH CALENDAR (See side margin for Main Residency Match)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship Matches</th>
<th>Appt Year</th>
<th>Match Opens</th>
<th>Rank Order List Opens</th>
<th>Quota Change Deadline</th>
<th>Rank Order List Deadline</th>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>3/24/2021</td>
<td>4/21/2022</td>
<td>5/19/2021</td>
<td>6/2/2021</td>
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RPCF ACGME WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:

How to Ace Your Next Site Visit
By Kino Williams, MS, CPHQ, C-TAGME

On November 16, the RPCF presented its final workshop for 2021. The presentation entitled "How to Ace Your Next Site Visit" was conducted by David Schwartz, MD, and Kino Williams, MS, from the Department of Radiation Oncology. Its purpose was to give coordinators insight into the ACGME site visits and the simple yet impactful things that program leadership can do to improve the successful outcome of RRC reviews of their programs. Twenty-seven (27) were in attendance, three (3) of those program directors. Double click below for a copy of the presentation.

How To Ace Your Next Site Visit.pdf
SHOUT OUT TO OUR COORDINATORS

Melissa Ramsaroop
Assistant Coordinator for Emergency Medicine

Yvonne Henry
former coordinator for Ortho is now the new Accreditation Manager for GME, effective Nov 25.

Stephanie Lane
Former Accreditation Manager for GME is now Director of Affiliations, working with Sydney Webster and Al Forsyth.

RPCF wishes them the best in their new endeavors!

RPCF COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT

DEVARECO WILKIE, MSc
Program Manager/Coordinator
Obstetrics and Gynecology and Gynecological Oncology

By Juliet Arthur, MHA, C-TAGME

It is my absolute pleasure to introduce Devareco (Dee) Wilkie, MSc, as the RPCF Spotlight on the Coordinator for the December issue of The Buzz. During her interview, Dee was very open about her experience as a new coordinator in the Department of OB/GYN. She candidly brought forth issues she felt coordinators face here at SUNY Downstate and offered solutions for correcting these issues. Dee also shared her thoughts on professional growth and her short-term and long-term goals.

Some background information about Devareco (Dee) Wilkie:
Hailing from the Caribbean island of Jamaica, Dee started at SUNY Downstate in 2006, while still attending Brooklyn College pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Business Finance Economics with a minor in Accounting. She began her career at Downstate as a Staff Assistant working for the Vice-Chair of OB/GYN.

Her initial intention was to temporarily work here, supplementing her income while still in school (her goal was to be a banker). However, the Downstate “charm” changed her mind and led to a career in healthcare administration instead.

Her experience while working with the Vice-Chair of OB/GYN included Performance Improvement activities and projects. This versatility and experience led her to assume the role of the Program Coordinator of the Oncology Program in 2017, and ultimately acquired the OB/GYN residency program with the retirement of Ms. Stephanie Washington, who managed the former program. She sees this combined position, OB/GYN and Gynecologic Oncology, as both a challenge and a blessing and looks forward to learning, growing, and perfecting her mastery of this new role.

Education remaining one of her cornerstones, Dee earned a Master’s degree in Global Business and Finance (also at Brooklyn College).

Below is an excerpt of my interview with Dee.

Was it easy transitioning into your role as a coordinator, and what advice or information did the previous coordinator leave with you?

The transition to this role was not as smooth and effortless as Dee thought it would be, but isn’t that always the case? Watching others in the role before her, it did not appear to be so complicated; after all, how difficult could it be? That thought process all went away once Dee started working with Wen Ching and realized that there was so much more to the job and its mastery.

Her intentions of simply coming in and revamping the program quickly disappeared as she became consumed with the large and intense program workload. Dee says she experienced something that she termed “work-shock” and was overwhelmed for the first couple of months. But that ‘work-shock” quickly turned into a work drive to succeed. She concentrated, focused, and began to see her job as a challenge for growth. Dee became amazed and intrigued by the various aspects of her position.

She now realizes that coordinators are the backbone of their programs, and programs tend to be only as strong as their coordinators. With that thought in mind, she embodies the strength and pride of her program. Dee is grateful for the RPCF, an organization for coordinators to come together, work together, and support one another.

(Double click on the icon below for the complete interview!)
I am thankful for my promotion to being a residency coordinator and my residency P.D. and APD team. My favorite quote is to "work smarter, not harder."

Chelsea Cole, MPH
Emergency Medicine

I am thankful to be a part of the Downstate Family. Have a great Thanksgiving, everyone! All the best.

Nathalie Gayle-Mendez, MA, ACWD
Dermatology

The next #FUNSQUAD event... Christmas Tree Decorating Contest!! – Stay Tuned!!

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UHB has launched the #FunSquad, an employee engagement committee and campaign designed to improve employee morale and participation while addressing/reinforcing patient safety initiatives.

This month's theme is - Thanksgiving "Gratitude on the Go"/2 Patient Identifiers. Committee members will be coming to the various services for pictures of employees and short videos/comments of, "What you’re thankful for." The patient safety initiatives are reinforcing 2 patient identifiers - DOB and name.

By Kino Williams, MS, CPHQ, C-TAGME
TIPS FOR SAFE HOLIDAY SHOPPING & TRAVEL
Security Hints & Tips for Holiday Shopping & Travel

As we prepare or continue shopping throughout this holiday season, I remind everyone of the bulletin sent out by our Information Security Officer, Igor Gorelick. One can never be too careful and these important tips are worth re-visiting for any time of the year.

The following e-mail is being sent on behalf of Igor Gorelik, Information Security Officer please email Igor.Gorelik@downstate.edu for more information

Security Hints & Tips: Holiday Shopping
For many of us, the holiday season is about friends, family, food, and shopping! Two of the busiest shopping days of the year, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, are at the end of November. Unfortunately, while you’re looking for the perfect gift, cybercriminals are looking for ways to scam you. Follow the tips below to shop safely:

Never install unfamiliar software.
There are hundreds of shopping apps out there. Some of these apps may be malicious, so only use apps that you know and trust. When you download software or apps, be sure to download from verified sources such as the App Store or Google Play. You can verify that an app is legitimate by reading the app’s reviews, checking the number of app downloads, and looking up the app’s developer.

Verify attachments are safe before downloading them.
A common tactic among cybercriminals is to create phony email notifications from a retailer or postal service. These notifications often include a malicious attachment. The cybercriminals may claim that there was an update to your order or that your package has been delayed, but you’ll have to download the attachment to find out more. Don’t fall for this trick! Before you open the attachment, contact the retailer or postal service to verify that the notification is legitimate. You can also look up your order directly on the website where you made the purchase.

Verify links before clicking.
Watch out for malicious advertisements, otherwise known as malvertising. Malvertising is when cybercriminals use ads to spread malware or to trick users into providing sensitive information. When online shopping, only click on an ad or link from a reputable source, such as a retailer’s official social media profile. To be extra careful, use your browser to navigate to the store’s official website to shop instead.

Security Hints & Tips: Holiday Travel
Have you ever been on a trip and realized that you forgot to pack something important? It’s easy to overlook things during the hustle and bustle of traveling, especially during the holidays. Unfortunately, cybercriminals take advantage of this busy season to target holiday travelers. Their goal is to catch you off guard when you least expect it. Don’t let cybercriminals ruin your holiday plans! Follow the tips below for safe travels:

Ingredient Checklist
- 3 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
• 1 cups margarine, softened
• 1 ½ cups white sugar
• 2 eggs
• ½ tablespoon and ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

**Directions**

**Step 1**
Sift flour, baking powder, and salt together, set aside. In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and sugar until light and fluffy.

Beat in the eggs one at a time, then stir in the vanilla.

Gradually blend in the sifted ingredients until fully absorbed.

Cover dough, and chill for 2 hours.

**Step 2**
Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

Grease cookie sheets. On a clean, floured surface, roll out small portions of chilled dough to 1/4 inch thickness.

Cut out shapes using cookie cutters.

**Step 3**
Bake 6 to 8 minutes in the preheated oven or until edges are barely brown.

Remove from cookie sheets to cool on wire racks.

Enjoy!

**Secure your devices when they are not in use.**
Never leave your phone, tablet, or computer unattended. Try to take your device with you wherever you go. If you do need to step away, lock your device. Then, ask a trusted friend or family member to keep your device safe while you're gone.

**Use strong passwords.**
Use strong passwords for all your devices, apps, and services! Don't forget to include the apps and services that you only use while traveling, such as hotel websites and translation apps. For added security, many apps allow you to use biometric identifiers instead of a password. If your device has a fingerprint scanner or facial recognition, set up this feature before leaving on your trip.

**Use a VPN when connecting to your organization's network.**
If you need to work while traveling, make sure to use a Virtual Private Network, or VPN. VPNs create a private network and encrypt your internet activity to protect your information from cybercriminals. Using a VPN is especially important if you connect to a network in a public place, such as a coffee shop or airport.

**Beware of public Wi-Fi networks.**
Always disable the option to automatically connect to Wi-Fi networks on your phone, tablet, or computer. Instead, manually choose which network you'd like to join. Only use Wi-Fi networks that you know are safe, and never connect to random hotspots.

*The information above is provided by KnowBe4.*

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**FROM OUR EAP, TIPS FOR DEALING WITH STRESS DURING THE HOLIDAYS...**

**EAP CONNECTION**

**December 2021**

**Employee Assistance Program**

**Getting the Most Out of the Holiday Season**

To make this holiday season more joyful and fulfilling, here are some healthy ways to deal with stress. One way is to try to have more realistic expectations about your holiday experiences. Unrealistic expectations (e.g., everyone needs to have the best experience) can have the potential to disappoint you. Also, it is alright to ask for help with holiday planning and activities, especially if you feel overwhelmed with all that needs to get done. In addition, to enjoy your holiday experiences and avoid additional stress when engaging in holiday activities with family and friends, try to enjoy the moment instead of getting distracted by past or future events. Finally, balancing healthy food options with the holiday treats, keeping up with exercise when possible, and trying to get adequate sleep can help you get the most out of the holiday season.
Professional Development for Coordinators/Administrators:
TAGME Certification

April 2022 – TAGME Assessment Registration Opens!

TAGME – A Personal Journey
By Kino Williams MS, CPHQ, C-TAGME

TAGME is personal to me! In 2009, I became the first TAGME certified coordinator here at Downstate, an honor I held until Gloria Jorge re-joined the Downstate family in 2015. With the ever-evolving changes in ACGME requirements, the program coordinator's role has also evolved, and in 2016, TAGME certification was re-introduced to the Downstate coordinators. Three became certified in 2017. Since then, our number of certified coordinators has steadily increased. We can now boast of seven coordinators who hold this distinction.

But it hasn't always been smooth sailing. In 2019, no Downstate coordinator became TAGME certified as all coordinators sitting for the exam failed to hit the 80-target passing score (our group's average score was 78). In 2020, certification took a back seat to the COVID-19 pandemic. To continue the momentum for TAGME certification and provide a workshop opportunity for those taking or re-taking the exam, the RPCF launched the "TAGME Taskforce." The task force is charged with creating a question and answer test bank, a best practices guide, a cheat sheet, and interactive and creative study groups and materials.

The task force, launched in October 2021, will continue through March 2022 in its pilot run. Presently, seven coordinators (and the executive committee members) make up the task force – Dermatology – Nathalie Mendez; Pediatrics – Darell Banks, Omaira Carrington, and Kwame Luke; GME – Yvonne Henry; Obstetrics and Gynecology – Devareco Wilkie; Surgery – Natasha Sagal. Based on autodidacticism (self-education), each task force member is responsible for tutoring both self and other exam takers in specific sections of the TAGME study guide. We believe this approach will best prepare all coordinators to master the exam because of its hands-on approach to learning.

I hope that coordinators sitting for the exam in 2022 are successful and future test-takers continue to nail this exam. The TAGME Task Force is working diligently to develop a sure-proof study plan for coordinators, bringing home more certifications to Downstate. As the lead member of the pilot TAGME Task Force, I look forward to its success and passing this winning formula to Snobia Jardim-Hinds, the lead for the 2023 examination, by providing her with a foundation for continued success.

In closing, and as always, we advocate for ourselves and each other.

**REMINDER!** If paying out-of-pocket for TAGME certification, fees are reimbursed via UUP CLEFR program if you successfully pass the certification exam!
Leadership skills is one of the most important stepping stones towards professional and personal development. We thank Dr. Charles Brunicardi, Dean of the College of Medicine, for graciously sharing his paper with the RPCF: **The Leadership Principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Their Relevance to Surgery** by F. Charles Brunicardi, MD; Ronald T. Cotton, MD; George W. Cole, MD; and George Martinez.

The authors highlight that "an important definition of a leader is someone who defines a vision for their constituency, then has the ability to move the constituency toward achieving that vision. One of the greatest leaders in history was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who provides a shining example of timeless leadership for us to study".

According to the article, the five (5) leadership skills are:

1. **VISION**
2. **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**
3. **WILLINGNESS TO LEARN**
4. **WILLINGNESS TO LEAD**
5. **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

As GME coordinators/managers/administrators, we strive to become leaders in our field. I encourage you to take a moment and review this important article in its entirety by double clicking on the icon below.

"A more modern leadership style is that of collaboration, in which the leader gives value to all members of the team, thus enabling the development of a powerful team that can create innovative solutions to problems".

FUN FACTS

The benefits of Wordsearches:
- Helps develop word recognition
- Helps develop pattern recognition
- S.P.E.L.L.I.N.G
- They are fun!

RPCF BIRTHDAY CORNER

Many happy returns to our coordinators celebrating birthdays this month!

Nicole Fraser 12/25
Selena Adams 12/28

(If your December birthday is not listed, or you have not provided us with your birthday information, please contact Juliet Arthur to be added to our Birthday List!)

RPCF FUN CORNER

How many words can you find?

ACGME WORD SEARCH

By Gloria Jorge, C-TAGME

Look for Answer Key somewhere in this Newsletter!
RPCF is currently in the process of updating/revising the information on our web page. However, due to the preparations for the launching of the new SUNY DMC website, we have been unable to upload these updates. Tuesday, Dec 7, is the day for the official launching of the new SUNY DMC website. Note below for announcement and scheduled activities, including a gift!

RPCF looks forward to continue providing our members with resources and information readily available in one central location. Thank you for your patience!
REMIND YOUR RESIDENTS/FELLOWS! OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH/SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY!

Abstracts due January 7, 2022!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE, PLEASE CONTACT: PatientSafetyFair@downstate.edu

Abstracts are currently being accepted so please sign up to present your project at our next Patient Safety and Quality Fair that will be held on March 16! We are looking to showcase and recognize your accomplishment!

Please read the attached guidelines for abstracts and e-mail your submission to PatientSafetyFair@downstate.edu or use the QR code in the document. On March 16, you will get the opportunity to present to the entire community. The best projects will win prizes!

The Patient Safety and Quality Fair will be a dynamic event, packed with speakers, games, and an incredible keynote presentation, given by Bruce Siegel, M.D., MPH, who is the President and CEO of America’s Essential Hospitals.

Our Vision at the University Hospital of Brooklyn is to be the Best Place to Get Care and the Best Place to Give Care. For this event, we will share ideas and best practices to offer the greatest care for our community as we continue our journey towards becoming a High Reliability Organization. Everyone at Downstate offers a significant contribution to this vision. Please send your abstracts in by Friday, January 7, and let’s continue our commitment towards providing the excellent care our patients deserve!
NOTES

(We provide this blank page for you to take notes or to jot down some ideas you may have for our future newsletters!)

RPCF Goals:

- Publishing at least one research article in JGME
- Presenting at the 2022 ACGME Annual Conference
- Additional workshops to be presented by SUNY Downstate faculty, staff, and coordinators, and from affiliate institutions
- Coordinator-collaborations with various departments within SUNY Downstate
- After-work wellness and community activities
- Residency Coordinator Handbook!
- RPCF Leadership Academy!