

FAREWELL FROM FORMER DIO, DR. TERESA SMITH



As of September 1st, I have stepped into the role of Interim Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, and therefore, I have transitioned the role of Designated Institutional Official to Dr. Lisa Dresner. I am currently still in the role of Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education and will be Chairing GMEC. I want to send my personal thanks to each and every program coordinator for your support over these last 4 years. We, as a GME community, have triumphed through a Global Pandemic, ACGME Institutional site visits, many programmatic site visits, and CLER Site Visits. We have faced these struggles graciously and have developed into a strong community. We turned our GME programs around into excellent training environments that produce socially conscious physicians, who are leaders in and out of the hospital. We won the national ACGME Barbara Ross-Lee DO Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Award. Juliet Arthur won the Debra L. Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award. We presented outstanding GME efforts nationally at multiple national conferences, including ACGME, AMA Change Med Ed, AAMC GRA, the Schwartz Center, ACGME Equity Matters, and even specialty society symposia. I am most proud that we have gone from siloed departments and programs to a GME community; through connections, campus-wide efforts and educational opportunities, and a communal way of helping each other administrate our programs. Through sharing policies and site visit preparation documents to creating a virtual interview toolkit for many faculty development symposia, we have stood out on a regional and national level as a GME campus that has role-modeled excellence. The residency program coordinator forum has shown that our program coordinators continue to stand out as leaders on our campus, the community, and the regional and national landscape. Through the annual retreat, the community healthy lifestyle fair, and even two accepted presentations at this year's ACGME conference, I have been proud to work alongside our program coordinators and publicly acknowledge their contributions and leadership. We should all be proud of what we have accomplished in these last 4 years, and I am hopeful that the many successes will continue. While I have taken on another role, please know, I will always be a part of the GME community. Thank you for the inspiration you all have shown, and the continuing support and kindness I have personally received from each of you.

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4TH ANNUAL RPCF EDUCATIONAL RETREAT WAS A SUCCESS!

Residency Program Coordinators Forum (RPCF) 4th Annual Educational Retreat



AWARDEES

RPCF GME RISING STAR AWARD: NICOLE SNEAD
DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

RPCF HUMANITARIAN/OUTREACH/DEI/AWARD: DARELL BANKS
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

RPCF GME DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: BARBARA SINGH
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY DIVISION OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY

RPCF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD: DEVARECO WILKIE
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

MAIMONIDES MEDICAL CENTER COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR: SHARON DEEGAN

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF RPCF, THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, THE SPEAKERS, OUR
DIO, OUR CATERERS, AND OUR SPONSORS!

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE COMMUNITY FAIR

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HEALTHY LIFESTYLE COMMUNITY FAIR AWARDEES:

2023 Hero Award Recipient
Dr. Christina Guillen



2023 Service Excellence Award Recipient
Ms. Betty Jung, RN



RPCF Recognition Award Recipient:
Ms. Edeline Mitton



2023 Hero Award Recipient
Dr. Christina Pardo



2023 Service Excellence Award Recipient
Dr. Sarah Marshall



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE COMMUNITY FAIR OVERVIEW



A Day of Screenings, Education and Fun

A Day of Screenings, Education and Fun





Meaning in Medicine

2024 ACGME
ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 7-9, 2024 • ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Join colleagues from across graduate medical education (GME) at the ACGME's signature learning event to experience three days of sessions filled with innovation and forward-thinking content. The ACGME strives to make #ACGME2024 an environment that welcomes all who are passionate about GME and collaboration – learners, leaders, educators, and visionaries. #ACGME2024 will bring together the largest GME community in the world for a wide selection of curated experiences and content to energize and inspire both seasoned and first-time attendees.

The #ACGME2023 conference convened more than 4,100 GME professionals. The ACGME looks forward to continuing conversations, building stronger connections, and sparking new ideas at #ACGME2024! Registration opens later this fall.

The 2024 ACGME Annual Educational Conference will take place March 7-9, 2024, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida!

The conference venue is run by a private organization that does not receive governmental funding, and the ACGME fully intends to provide a forum for encouraging discussion of all topics and challenges faced by members of the graduate medical education community.

The registration portal for the Educational Conference will open on 11/8/23

PREVIOUS EVENTS



Happy GME Professionals Day



SHOUTOUTS



Downstate Coordinators to Present at the
2024 ACGME Annual Educational Conference!

Topic: Creating a Coordinator Forum- Giving Program Coordinators a Voice In the GME Community
{ 75 minute Workshop}

We are pleased to announce that one of the RPCF executive team's ACGME meeting proposals was accepted for presentation at the 2024 ACGME Educational Conference scheduled for March 7, 2024, see below for further details.

- See the link for the 2024 meeting program here: [afa6f0753ac645069f30673e2a08d59d.pdf](#) ([cvent.com](#)).
- Early Bird Registration Fees: Available from when registration opens (this fall) through December 20, 2023. General Attendee: \$1,190 Resident/Fellow Attendee: \$590
- Standard Registration Fees: Available from December 21, 2023, to February 16, 2024. General Attendee: \$1,340 Resident/Fellow Attendee: \$640



CONGRATULATIONS to Kino Williams, for winning the **ACGME Debra L. Dooley Award**. This is the second year in a row one of your amazing SUNY Downstate Program Coordinators won .

RPCF BIRTHDAYS

August

Tam, Leancia (Lisa) – 8/18

Dowling, Jacqueline – 8/27

September

Jardim-Hinds, Snobia – 9/2

Henry, Yvonne – 9/9

Cooper, Lois – 9/10

Tellford, Jillian – 9/15

Faulknor, Nicole – 9/20

October

Sagal, Natasha – 10/2

Jones, Velda – 10/27



If you are a coordinator and your birthday did not get featured in this newsletter. Please email Chelsea.Cole@downstate.edu your name and birthdate.

Remembering Dr. Kemjika Onouha (1987-2023)

The program coordinator - resident relationship is an interesting one, coordinators wear so many hats - administrator, parent, confidant, friend, disciplinarian, ally, and I can go on. In my 20 plus years in graduate medical education, I have never encountered a resident such as Kemjika Onouha, MD.

Kem came to the Downstate Orthopaedic Surgery Program in 2014, and graduated in 2020, spending an extra year in the program as he battled and survived cancer. He would then complete an adult reconstruction fellowship at UNOVA Hip & Knee Center in Lady Lake, Florida.

Seeing Kem graduate was one of my finest moments as a coordinator, knowing all the struggles he faced and triumphed over will forever be etched in my mind. Kem was a handful to say the least but always a scholar and a gentleman. Often times, as coordinators we create and maintain lifelong relationships with our residents and even though Kem is now gone, his legacy lives on in everyone he touched.

Dr. Onouha was laid to rest on Friday 25 August, 2023, at Lea Funeral Home Chapel, 2500 Poole Road, Raleigh, NC. In attendance were family and friends as well as SUNY Downstate faculty, resident and staff representatives (pictured below):



We will forever remember you Kem, Kino.



INTERVIEW SEASON TIPS



Engaging Applicants During Virtual Interviews: Top Tips

As we gear up for another interview season, it's important to acknowledge the unique challenges and opportunities that virtual interviews bring to the recruitment process. Keeping applicants engaged throughout the interview season is essential for a successful match. Here are some tips to help you maintain applicant engagement during the virtual interview process:

1. **Pre-Interview Communication**: Start building a connection before the interview day. Send out welcome emails with important information about the program, the virtual interview process, and what to expect. Consider including a short video message from program leadership to add a personal touch.
2. **Virtual Tours**: Since on-site tours may not be possible, create a virtual tour of your facilities. This can help applicants visualize themselves in your program and get a feel for the environment.
3. **Interactive Q&A Sessions**: Host virtual Q&A sessions with current residents, program directors, and faculty. These sessions allow applicants to ask questions and get a sense of the program's culture.
4. **Clear Communication**: Keep applicants informed throughout the process, from interview invitations to post-interview updates. Promptly respond to their inquiries and ensure they have a point of contact for any questions.



Avoiding Burnout During Interview Season: Self-Care Strategies

While our primary focus is on the applicants, it's crucial that we, as Residency Coordinators, also take care of ourselves during this intense period. Here are some tips to help you avoid burnout:

1. **Prioritize Time Management**: Organize your tasks and create a detailed schedule to maintain a work-life balance. Allocate specific hours for interviews, administrative work, and personal time.
2. **Delegate When Possible**: Trust your team and delegate tasks as necessary. You don't have to do everything on your own.
3. **Stay Connected**: Engage with your peers and fellow coordinators. Sharing experiences, challenges, and solutions can provide a strong support system.
4. **Self-Care Rituals**: Incorporate self-care practices into your daily routine, whether it's meditation, exercise, or simply taking short breaks to relax.
5. **Lean on Technology**: Use tools like project management apps and calendar reminders to stay organized and reduce stress.
6. **Reflect and Learn**: At the end of each interview season, take time to reflect on what worked well and what could be improved. Use this feedback to refine your processes for the future.

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR INPUT

Please use the form below to let us know your suggestions and ideas for the newsletter

<https://forms.gle/mQhe1bS7hTZ7jbK4A>



Editors:

Devareco Wilkie & Chelsea Cole